

## THE IMMORTAL SOUL

### A Basic Catholic View of Human Nature

(5) How is your **soul** like to God?

*My soul is like to God because it is a spirit (i.e., immaterial) and is immortal.*

(6) What do you mean when you say that your soul is **immortal**?

*When I say that my soul is immortal, I mean that my soul can never die.*

#### To Understand Something:

- ⇒ Identify its four Primary Causes.
- ⇒ Determine its definition (ought to describe its essence; what makes it unique).
- ⇒ Objective process: distinguish by finding commonalities / differences with other things.

#### Hierarchy in Creation

- Inanimate Life (elements, rocks, minerals, non-living)
- Animate Life (a living body)
  - Plant Life has a *Vegetative* Soul (grows, reproduces, dies).
  - Animal Life has a *Sensitive* Soul (vegetative powers and sensation, instincts, locomotion).
  - Man has a *Human* Soul (sensitive powers and mind and will).  
Man alone in all creation is a body-soul composite.
- Created Spirit
  - Angels (no bodies, pure spirit with mind and will)

GOD (uncreated) - *infinitely* greater than and distinct from all His Creation

**Soul:** the principle of life in a living body.

**Human Soul:** ultimate internal principle which animates man's body and by which he thinks and wills.

#### The Human Soul Exists and Is Immaterial

- Man is constantly engaged in abstract concepts and immaterial realities.
- Man has immaterial powers (mind and will). These can't come from his body. Animals do not have these powers. Immaterial powers must necessarily come from an immaterial source.
- You can't give what you don't have. Matter can not manipulate that which is immaterial.
- Scientists are unable to discover the soul, for man's physical senses can't detect the immaterial.

#### The Human Soul Is Immortal

- All men have an infinite desire and capacity for universal transcendentals (Beauty, Truth, Goodness).
- Man can never be fulfilled in this life. Man's soul must therefore be immortal.
- Other ways of showing this: Man's Conscience, Awareness of Judgment
- God alone can satisfy this desire. *"Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."* - St. Augustine