

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

God is a god of order. The six days of the creation were marked by order – orderly speaking into being, the forming and filling of all things according to God’s plan in an orderly way. He separated the firmament above from the firmament below. He gathered the waters that dry land appear. He brought forth grass and herbs bearing seed according to their kind. He ordered the day and night by speaking into being great lights to govern them. He created sea creatures and living things according to their kind, trees bearing fruit according to their kind. Then, as the pinnacle of his creation, he made man. This He did in a divinely orderly way also. Male and female He created them. He created them according to His image and His likeness. Only then was the creation very good. Only then did He rest.

What is this image of God in which man was created?

Certainly holiness. Man was created without sin. Certainly also that man’s will was in perfect accord with God’s will. And before the fall, man was able to do God’s will. But man was created according to order also, just as order is found in the Holy Trinity.

The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are equal. All three are God, worthy of worship and praise. But Father, Son and Holy Ghost are not interchangeable. The Son was begotten of the Father, and is inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood. The Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father and the Son. The Son humbled Himself, took on Flesh, and died. The Father and the

Holy Ghost did not. The image of God in which man was created includes “equality” between man and woman, but not interchangeability. There is God-ordained distinction. There is a divinely instituted order.

So the Apostle writes “Wives, submit to your husbands, as it is fitting in the Lord.” These are not words well-received by the proud. This Apostolic Truth is rejected by so-called progressives and moderns. Their doctrine is that men and women are interchangeable. They desire to erase all distinction between men and women, allowing even the abomination of perverted relationships and sinful so-called “marriages”, equating perverse lusts with God-given race and gender. At base, they desire to function as creators, not as creatures. They desire to re-create man and woman in an image they prefer. They sinfully desire to be like god.

But this sin, desiring to be like God, a damning remnant of your first father, has dwelt in you also. Consider your life – in what vocation has God placed you that you have murmured against? Have you joyfully, heartily served as wife or husband, mother or father, son or daughter, employee or volunteer, as serving the Lord? Have you accepted God’s will, or have you complained and grumbled, discharging your vocation with a negative attitude and a “victim mentality”? Wives, have you willingly submitted to your husbands as to the Lord? Husbands, have you sinfully “lorded” it over your wives? Have you been content in all circumstances, or have you secretly desired to re-order what God has brought to be? Have you coveted what others seem to have, desiring to remake

yourself or your life in an image that you prefer? Have you sinfully desired to be like God?

In the greatest of mysteries, to save you, God desired to be like you, the Creator taking being found in the form of His creature. The eternal Second Person of the Holy Trinity became Man, that the devil, who once by a tree overcame, might by a tree be overcome. By the tree of the cross, by His precious, sinless death, did the God Man reconcile man to God. Believing in Him, all your sins are forgiven.

Where there was disorder in fallen man, in Christ order is restored. Christ is the head of man, and man the head of woman. In redemption there is no male nor female, and yet the blessed order of creation stands until you are relieved of your flesh. Then you, O Christian, will be like the angels, neither marrying nor giving in marriage. But now, in Baptismal faith, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, you are created anew by the God that made you, that whatever you do in word or deed, you do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through Him.

And so this day does God Himself give you to eat from the Fruit of the tree of the tree of the cross, the Body given and Blood shed for you, distributed to you in the orderliness of the Holy Liturgy. You eat and drink and are one, one with one another, one with God. You eat and drink in faith, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance.