

Humanity in the Image of God

Chapter 7 of Migliore



Humanity in the Image of God

1

Imago Dei: “Image of God”

Various Interpretations

- P Physical resemblance
- P Capacity to Reason (Thomas Aquinas)
- P Dominion over Earth (hierarchical power)
- P Human Freedom – self-determining & self-transcending
- P Capacity for Relationship with God and Others
 - Fits Migliore’s trinitarian theology



Imago Dei: “Image of God”

2

1. Created Humanity

Trinitarian Perspective

- P “Human beings, created in God’s image, are beings freely addressed by God and free to respond to God” (123)
 - In our psychophysical or embodied existence we are in free relationship with God
- P “Being created in the image of God means that humans find their true identity in coexistence with each other and with all other creatures” (125)
 - Created for life in community; relationships of mutual fidelity and mutual freedom (non-hierarchical)
- P “Being created in the image of God is ... a movement with a goal ... [we are] restless for a fulfillment of a life not yet realized” (128)
 - “call forward” to freedom and fulfillment



1. Created Humanity

3

2. Fallen Humanity

P As fallen, sinful creatures we are alienated from God and fellow creatures (130)

P Sin is rejection of dependence upon God and need for fellow creatures, especially the “stranger”

- Can take form of domination or servility, pride and passivity (sexism, racism, classism)

P Origin of sin is not issue, but that it is

- *universal* and *self-chosen*,
- found in what is *evil* and even in what many call *good*
- affects *individual* and *corporate* life (135)



2. Fallen Humanity

4

3. New Humanity in Christ

Forgiven, transformed sinners

P Through Christ, **faith** is “free act of entrusting oneself to God ... [and] the end of all idolatry [of self or others] (136)

P In Christ, **love** is the new way to be human “with and for others” (137)

- Response to God’s love for us

P **Hope** is “new freedom toward God’s future in which we live in the expectation of the fulfillment of the gracious promise of God in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit” (138)

- Confidence to strive for justice and peace that restores relationships with God and God’s creation



3. New Humanity in Christ

5