

Study Guide: Original Sin and Human Nature and Destiny

To study the topic of human nature, original sin, and our final destiny, consult the Scripture passages listed and the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. What does the Catechism say is “the fundamental reason for [mankind’s] dignity”? What does being made in the image of God give to man? (CCC 355-358)
2. What kind of being is man? What meanings does the Catechism give the word *soul*? How does the body share in the dignity of God’s image? (CCC 362-366)
3. What does St. Paul mean by talking about the spirit in addition to the soul? What is the heart? (CCC 363, 367-368)
4. What is sin? How do we know that sin is not merely a “mistake” or a “psychological flaw” or “character weakness”? (CCC 386-387)
5. What is “original” sin? How do we know? (CCC 389-390, 396)
6. What was the nature of the sin Adam and Eve committed? (CCC 397-398)
7. What was the consequence for mankind of that sin? Is this the same thing as saying that human nature is no longer good, that it is corrupt? (CCC 399-403, 405)
8. Why does the Catechism call original sin a only in an analogical sense? What does that expression mean? (CCC 404-405)
9. How is the Catholic doctrine of original sin different from both the Pelagian teaching and the teaching of the Protestant reformers? (CCC 406)

10. The Catechism states that “Ignorance of the fact that man has a wounded nature inclined to evil gives rise to serious errors in the areas of education, politics, social action and morals.” How so? (CCC 407-409)

11. What is the “proto-evangelium”? Where is it contained in Scripture? What does it have to do with the doctrine of original sin? (CCC 410-412)

12. What does the expression “heaven and earth” mean in Scripture? Whose place is it? (CCC 325-326)

13. Where is heaven? What do the covenant, the process of conversion, and the ascension of Jesus into heaven have to do with this? (CCC 2794-2796)

14. What does it mean to live in heaven? How does Scripture support these ideas? (CCC 1023-1026; refer to the Scripture passages in the footnotes!)

15. What images does the Bible use to depict heaven? What does the term “beatific vision” mean? (CCC 1027-1029)

16. Who goes to hell? Does God ever predestine someone for hell? What does it take to go there? (1033, 1037)

17. How do we know from the New Testament that hell exists? What is it like? (CCC 1034-1035)

18. What good purpose does the existence of hell serve? (CCC 1036)