

**Our readings today have much to say to our culture**  
**Family and marriage; the core values of Western civilization**  
**Are being attacked from all sides**  
**The attacks may be from new fronts**  
**But they are really nothing new**  
**They have been there from the beginning**  
**These attacks all stem from a specific worldview**  
**God has a plan**  
**He created everything with that plan in mind**  
**But from the beginning**  
**Men have tried to re-create God's image**  
**Rather than acknowledging His plan**  
**Acknowledging that we are created in His image and likeness**  
**Acknowledging that we are creatures**  
**He is the Creator**  
**We are called to be stewards of all creation**  
**We are called to see the truth**  
**And to conform our lives to the truth**  
**We take all these things and we turn them upside down**  
**We want to be the creator**  
**We want God to conform to our image**

**We want the truth to bend to our will**

**We want creation to serve our needs**

**This is really the heart of original sin**

**And it is running rampant in our world today**

**Seen vividly in the attacks against the family and marriage**

**When God created man and all the wild animals**

**He formed them out of the ground**

**The same material was used to form man and animals**

**But none of them were found to be a suitable partner for the man**

**So He created woman from his side**

***Flesh of my flesh***

***Bone of my bone***

**They are to cling to one another**

**And become one flesh**

**This is marriage**

**A gift from God**

**It is not something we can give a new meaning to**

**It is not something we can manipulate to our desires**

**From the beginning**

**One man and one woman**

**But not alone**

**Blessed Fulton Sheen calls it 3 to get married**

**The man and woman and God**

**Love for each other, between a man and a woman**

**Leads to love for The Other; love for God**

**Marriage is a gift that God has given to human beings**

**As an image of the Holy Trinity**

**The Father**

**The Son and the Holy Spirit**

**The husband**

**The wife and the children**

**The father is not the son**

**The son is not the Holy Spirit**

**They are in relationship to and with each other**

**Jesus is the physical manifestation of this relationship**

**The husband is not the wife**

**The wife is not the husband**

**But together they are one flesh**

**Marriage is not a sacrament they receive**

**The husband and wife become the sacrament**

**And the physical manifestation of this love is a child**

**Mankind has tried to manipulate this gift right from the start**

**Moses allowed divorce**

**It became part of their law**

**But that is not what God intended**

**When the Pharisees came to Christ**

**They used the topic of divorce to try to trap him**

**To cause divisions among his followers**

**They wanted to know what they could get away with**

**But Jesus is not concerned with their laws**

**He is concerned with the will of God**

**What God made and what he intended**

**Our readings today put this in context of marriage**

**But we need to go further**

**We need to look at everything God created**

**We do not own creation**

**We are stewards**

**The physical world was created to show God's glory**

**Animals were created to show God's glory**

**Man and women were created to show God's glory**

**And of all God's creation**

**Men and women are the pinnacle of His creation**

**Made in his image and likeness**

**All other creation is there to serve our needs**

**Not to be manipulated or plundered for personal pleasure or desire**

**Pope Leo XIII wrote a great encyclical on creation**

**In it he extolled the virtues of private property**

**But it is only virtuous if personal wealth serves the common good**

**We are called to care for all of God's creation as stewards**

**The physical world and each other**

**The most precious gift God has given us is himself**

**And a relationship that leads to salvation**

**But original sin blinds us**

**We forget about the common good**

**We tend to use creation for personal desires**

**We re-define marriage**

**We allow no-fault divorce**

**We legalize same-sex unions**

**Transgenderism is the rage currently**

**But being male or female matters to God, who created us**

**This is not interchangeable**

**And it is not a coincidence**

**Jesus Christ was born a male**

**As part of God's plan**

**We are born male or female as part of God's plan**

**We allow abortion**

**We even allow human fetuses to be harvested and sold**

**And we become so numb to this when it is exposed**

**There is a deafening silence in our nation**

**Human life is no longer valued**

**Creation has become a disposable commodity**

**No amount of laws will change that**

**The only thing that will change it is a conversion of heart**

**What is needed is the vision of Christ**

**What is it that God intended?**

**The Second Person of the Holy Trinity**

*For a little while was made lower than the angels*

**Christ choosing to become man was a humbling experience**

**And he emptied himself in death for our salvation**

**He who consecrates and he who is consecrated have one origin**

**He is not ashamed to call them brothers**

**We are Christ's brothers and sisters**

**In humility, we come to God as little children**

**In humility we know that human love is not enough**

**It is the participation with divine love that gives us strength**

**Strength to overcome our limitations**

**Strength to overcome our weakness**

**This is not easy**

**It is something that all of us struggle with in one way or another**

**Even in the midst of this struggle**

**We are called to hold onto the ideal**

**As Christ did in the midst of his passion**

**And we come to God as little children**

**In a humble acknowledgment of our limitations and our sinfulness**

**Trusting in each other**

**Trusting in God**

**Not counting the cost**

**Re-created in Christ, our brother**

**Re-created in the image and likeness of a loving Father**

**So we may be witnesses and disciples of the family**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.**

**Amen**