



Excerpt from ***Christ Our Pascha***

The Created Nature of Humankind

As the Book of Genesis tells us, God created the human being out of the “dust of the earth” – matter—breathing into us the “breath of life,” by virtue of which the human being becomes a “living being” (*Gn 2:7*). Holy Scripture portrays the Creator with the image of a potter, who *moulds* humankind according to his Image from the clay. This image (see *Gn 1:27*) is the Incarnate Son of God: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation” (*Col :15*). Humankind is created in the image of the Son:

Now God....modelled [the human being] after his own Son, for by the hands of the Father, that is, by the Son and the Holy Spirit, the whole human being, and [merely] a part of it, was made in the likeness of God...for the perfect human being consists in the commingling and the union of the *soul* receiving the *Spirit of the Father*, and the admixture of that *fleshly nature* that was moulded after the image of God.” Says St. Irenaeus (#128)