



Excerpt from ***Christ Our Pascha***

The Created Nature of Humankind

Having created us in his own image, God calls us to holiness: “May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless” (*1Thes* 5:23). St. Gregory of Nyssa thus states the St. Paul uses “the word ‘body’ for the nutritive part; denoting the sensitive [part] by the word ‘soul,’ and the intellectual by the word ‘spirit.’” (#130)

For the sanctification of humankind, God gave one commandment. We read: “*of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat*” (*Gn* 2:17). The fulfillment of this one commandment in Paradise would have permitted humankind to eat of the “tree of life;” it would have allowed them “to receive immortality as reward from [God];” and it would have transfigured them “into one Spirit with the Lord,” into “a spiritual being , who has surrendered the body to the authority of the spirit.” (#131)