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THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHRISTIAN MAN:
A BIBLICAL STUDY OF ADAM, ST. JOSEPH AND JESUS CHRIST

DEVIN SCHADT

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The Meaning and Mystery of Man: The Role and Responsibility of the Christian Man: A Biblical Study of Adam, St. Joseph and Jesus Christ
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INTRODUCTION

A Search for the Divine Vision of Man

God has imparted men with the noble task to establish peace, sometimes with the sword; to unite peoples by proclaiming the truth, a truth that often divides; and to, in the name of God, lead their families, which demands that they learn to follow Christ.

As of late, though, it appears that the true Christian man has become a byword, and his glory has all but faded. He is plagued by a haunting, hidden shame for his desire to exercise his God-given power and authority for the purpose of following Christ's mandate to save souls.

This is not accidental. The devil is acutely aware that the conversion of the world depends on a thriving, faithful, Church militant; that an uncompromising, life-giving Church is dependent

upon faithful, godly families who pursue holiness and love sacrificially; and that families such as these are dependent upon the husband, the father, to lead his family to salvation in Jesus Christ. If that man is shamed into suppressing his authority and power, the divine project to save mankind is gravely compromised.

If a man is married, has children, and is serious about his responsibility to Christ and his family, he senses that he is being summoned to spiritual combat, to be the spiritual leader of his family. He responds to his heavenly Commander's voice, the battle drum of divine inspiration, the horn beckoning him to the front lines of what could be one of the greatest spiritual battles of all ages.

Yet, when he arrives at the field of decision, scrambling into formation with others like himself, he looks for those commanders who have the answers to his identity, his destiny, his mission, and his vocation. What is his location in the battle? What position should he take? What is his role and his responsibility? Who answers to him, and to whom does he answer?

It is for lack of vision that the people perish,¹ and for lack of true shepherds that the flock flees and falls.² The world continually demands that men, in the name of equality and diversity, apologize for their masculinity and that they never forget their

1 See Prv 29:18.

2 See Zec 13:7.

former misuse of that power, which is often considered a phenomenon of pancultural domination of women.

When a man apologizes, he attempts to right the wrong he has inflicted. Yet, if he denies who he is, he cannot repent of his wrongdoing. The world incessantly demands that men, particularly Christian husbands and fathers, apologize for the misuse of their fatherly authority by denying or suppressing the very identity and authority that enables them to right the wrong.

The answer to upholding women is not to spiritually neuter or obliterate male headship, but rather to understand it for what it actually is, to proclaim its glorious, biblical, theological vision, and to live it fully.

To adapt a well-known statement of the Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen for our use: There exist a multitude of people who hate patriarchal authority and male headship for what they think it is; and yet very few who despise it for what it truly is. This misrepresentation is the chief reason for this work.

What is male headship actually? What is patriarchal authority as God intended it to be? Can we, in the modern age, dare to believe, proclaim, and embody such ideas?

This book is not a practical, how-to, step-by-step, self-help book about being an involved dad or an attentive, nice husband. It doesn't contain any inspirational personal stories. This piece

will not reflect upon the woman's role, her genius, or her contribution to the Church, to marriage, and to the family. Nor will this work focus on the suppression of women's rights and how this evil ought to be rectified. In this regard, the Church offers many valuable resources.³

This book is an attempt to mine the riches of Sacred Scripture and the traditional thought that is continually expressed by the Church for the purpose of proposing a theological, perhaps mystical, vision of man that is biblical, practical, and hopefully inspirational.

God, in His generosity, has packed Sacred Scripture with many insights particular to the nature, essence, role, and responsibility of man. As many of these truths were common sense, based on natural law, or embedded in the liturgy of the Church, there was no need for them to be formally defined. Yet, the cultural, sexual revolution that began in the 1960s has undermined, eclipsed, and potentially redefined the traditional understanding of man and his mission, robbing him of his unique spiritual influence.

In our age, the man who is husband, father, and head of his home, must be re-visited with a determination to define him, his

3 For example, see John Paul II, *Letter of John Paul II to Women* (1995); John Paul II, *Mulieris Dignitatem*. Hereafter *MD*.

role, and his responsibility in a theologically and scripturally accurate way.

What are the chief spiritual characteristics of the man that make him unique and complementary to the woman? Why did God create him in this way; and what constitutes his official station in life? Why is he essential to God's plan to save humanity?

To develop adequate responses to these questions, we will mine the sacred texts for the purpose of discovering the divinely intended meaning of man by returning to the original man, Adam, and typologically comparing him to the God-man, the New Adam, Jesus Christ.

Yet, located between these two men exists the "just man," St. Joseph, who in many ways is a fulfillment of the Old Adam, "the man of the Old Testament." At the same time, he is a typological precursor for his Son, Jesus Christ, the New Adam. St. Joseph, therefore, "is like to a man that is a householder, who bringeth forth out of his treasure new things and old" (Mt 13:52). Therefore, St. Joseph is an essential bridge between the original man and the God-man, who will aid us in our attempts to unveil a full vision of the mature man in Christ.

Unfortunately, the satanic agenda to destroy the Church by re-defining and undermining the mission of the *ecclesia domestica*, the family, is well underway and, perhaps, reaching its final stages.

There, however, exists one—the faithful husband and father—who has been entrusted with the task to hold fast at the helm and, by means of having the divine vision of his mission and office, navigate those entrusted to him to the shores of victory in Christ.

In the final analysis, the key to converting the nations is the renewal and strengthening of the Church, in numbers and faith; and the key to renewing the *ecclesia universalis*, the universal Church, is restoring the *ecclesia domestica*, the domestic church (the family), that it may reflect the image of the Trinity; and the key to restoring the family to this noble identity is the revitalization of marriage; and, to accomplish this, the man who is appointed by God to be the head of his house, the head of the family, must understand his meaning and mission and manifest the glory of God in his spiritual paternity.

Each section of this book will be comprised of detailed scriptural meditations that compare the Old Adam and the New Adam by linking them with St. Joseph. With this in mind, the first section of this work, *A New Genesis*, demonstrates St. Joseph's vital position as this link between the original and the redeemed man, while also acclaiming his vital necessity in formulating a full vision of man.

Proceeding from this first section, the following four sections focus on a particular, fundamental aspect of man's role and

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responsibility. When these four aspects are combined, they will constitute an outline for a theological, scriptural, somewhat practical, inspirational vision of the meaning of man in God, and God in man. These four sections are: *The Guardian of the Garden: Defining Man's Position in God's Plan*; *Man's Role and Responsibility: The Hierarchy of Sacrificial Responsibility*; *A Husband's Headship: At the Service of Completing the Bride*; and *Patriarchal Authority: At the Service of Completing the Family*.

Lest it even need mentioning, the truths presented in this book will run contrary to the numerous false ideologies proposed by the world and the devil. The world will not receive this message. This work is a sign of contradiction to the world's false formulations of marriage, family, and humanism. Yet, this body of work contains the fundamental remedy to the disorders that have assaulted marriage, that have attempted to redefine the family, and that have undermined the authority of the Catholic Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

May these meditations be a blessing to you in your search and desire to become the man God has created you to be.

St. Joseph, head of the Holy Family, ora pro nobis.