Thank You to Our Advertisers!
Man was created for life and happiness. No sane person wants to die, We want life. We want happiness. And not mere crumbs but abundantly. Yet life here below doesn’t sate our cravings. All we get is crumbs. We always crave still more.

We were created by and directed toward the Infinite. God alone can satisfy human longing because God alone is infinite. Creatures, ultimately cannot satisfy us. St. Augustine said it best in his book called Confessions: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in You.”

When we attempt to sate our inborn desire for God by false substitutes that ultimately cannot fulfill, we suffer codependency and addiction. The way out is a life of virtue (‘rightly ordered love’) which alone leads to happiness and life, eternal happiness and eternal life.

St. John (I John 4:8) tells us that God is love, He created us out of love because he wishes us to share his eternal happiness. The virtue of love or charity is created in us out of love because he wishes us to share eternal life.

In our charity, we may need a life of virtue. It is the hallmark of the Christian soul. Jesus teaches, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for another.” (John 13:35) But how is love to be understood?

When we speak of love, we are speaking in a Christian sense not in the sense of our modern culture. For Hollywood, love is purely and simply a feeling, an emotion. For the Christian, love is a virtue and it exists, not in feelings as such, but in the will. I cannot make myself feel good about people, for example troublesome or annoying people, but I can still love them, despite how I feel about them.

Charity implies awareness of God’s presence and awareness of other people’s legitimate needs. This is not easily achieve because by our fallen nature we are self-centered. Grace is needed to pierce the hardness of our hearts. The seven deadly sins make genuine love impossible. To achieve our goal of eternal life and happiness, we need to fight against sin. The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes.

Pope Benedict notes: “Love is the foundation of immortality and immortality proceeds from love alone.” If I want to be immortally happy, I must learn to love as God loves. Love is the essential principle of the spiritual life. It is the hallmark of the Christian soul. Jesus teaches, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for another.” (John 13:35) But how is love to be understood?

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