

# "I AM the LIFE" (EVERLASTING)

## in both Earthly & Resurrected Bodies

Jn 14:6, 5:21-29; I Cor 15:12-26, 42-44, 50-57; Rev 21:1-8

### I. EVERLASTING LIFE BEGINS in SOUL-ANIMATING BODY (both earthly & resurrected)

- A. Soul animates=enlivens; "breath of life . . . living soul" created at conception
- B. Both immaterial and immortal (cf. *The Immortal Mind* by Michael Egnor)
  - 1. Evidence for immateriality—mind distinct from brain (mathematics; logic; language)
  - 2. Evidence for immortality—Paul's "third heaven" (2 Cor 12); ubiquitous desire; NDEs & mystical experiences

### II. EVERLASTING LIFE LINKED TO the INNER LIFE of the TRIUNE GOD

- A. Father: He Who Is; in Augustine's *Trinity: mens* (mind)
- B. Son: The Word Who is with and Who Is God; Augustine: *notitia sui* (self-knowledge)
- C. Spirit: Love that Father & Son share; Augustine: *amor sui* (self-love)

### III. EVERLASTING LIFE PROFFERED to US (via faith/belief in Christ & power of Holy Spirit)

- A. Reason—a person is "an individual substance of a rational nature" (Boethius)
  - 1. Permeating creation—things work right, following rational patterns, according to divine design (homeostasis; organization; metabolism; growth)
  - 2. Innate desire to know & virtually infinite capacity to do so, "to know everything about everything" (Bernard Lonergan); daily desire to learn more—books, pod casts, birds, family, etc.
    - a. Name things (as did Adam in Garden); "man gave names to all the animals, in the beginning" (Dylan); discerning true nature, essence, form that makes something what it is
    - b. Understand things—answering "why" questions, finding causes (weather; recipes; history)
  - 3. Everlasting Life means Endless Learning, fulfilling rational nature
    - a. Knowing God—*beatific vision* revealing Who He IS
      - 1. Trinitarian truths partially unveiled; perhaps reconciling modalism & tritheism
      - 2. Attributes—incommunicable (i.e. omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence) & communicable (i.e. goodness, holiness, love) appreciated
      - 3. Transcendentals (truth; goodness; beauty) grasped
    - b. Knowing Man—original plan; Adam's grandeur fully evident
      - 1. *Imago Dei* finally, fully understood & C.S. Lewis's "Weight of Glory" celebrated
      - 2. Human history seen in its providential splendor (cf. Augustine's *City of God*)
      - 3. Creative capacities developed—music & art & literature & architecture (cf. Dorothy Sayers' *The Mind of the Maker*)
    - c. Knowing Creation, both old & new
      - 1. Intellectual delight in discovery (i.e. wonders evident in *Your Amazing Body*)
      - 2. Scientific inquiries & insights, ever-enlarging understanding
- B. Love—*agape*'s commitment to the well-being of others
  - 1. Pulsating, life-giving energy; Dante, in *Paradise*: "I saw how it contains within its depths / all things bound in a single book by love / of which creation is the scattered leaves"
  - 2. Innate desire to love and be loved, to interact with others, giving & getting
  - 3. Everlasting Life means Ceaseless loving, fulfilling our volitional & affectional nature
    - a. Loving God
      - 1. Acknowledging *Agape* source & grandeur—"not that we loved God, but that he loved us (I Jn 4:10)
      - 2. Appreciating Him as Father, who cares and guides
    - b. Loving others.
      - 1. Family—moms & dads, spouses, children, extended family bonds
      - 2. Friends old & new, perhaps ever-expanding circles of folks (personal heroes; martyrs & saints)
    - c. Loving Creation (new creation better than old)
      - 1. Aesthetic joy, beholding beauty of God's creation
      - 2. Stewards forever, caring for new earth, finding fulfillment in creative work