160 Generation (*Generacio*)

Generation is double, divine and human.

Divine up to now has been triple, of which the first is ineffable substantiality, by which the Son is begotten from the Father eternally, just as light from the sun, brightness from a fire, Psal. [2:7]: “The Lord has said to me: You are my son, this day have I begotten you.”

The second is admirable humility, by which he was begotten by a mother temporally, just as heat from the sun, Matt. 1[:1]: “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David.”

¶ Concerning this generation it is spoken of in Gen. 5[:1-2]. The first generation was without a man and even a woman, namely, of Adam. The second generation was from a man without a woman, namely, of Eve. The third generation was from a man and a woman, just as Abel and the others. But the fourth generation was from a woman alone without a man, namely, of Christ, through the generation of whom we are returned to the heavenly Father, Matt. 4[:25]: “She brought forth her son,” namely, “the firstborn.”

The third generation is of spiritual love, by which we are begotten spiritually as sons by adoption, [1] John 5[:18]: “The generation of God preserves him.” James 1[:18]: “Of his own will hath he begotten us by the word of truth.”

¶ Human generation is either commended from its merit or condemned from its sin. From its merit however in a threefold way. First from the sanctity of the operation, just as a tree or the earth from a multiplicity of fruit, Psal. [13:6]: “The Lord is in the just generation,” just as the farmer in a fertile field, 1 Tim. 2[:15]: “She shall be saved through childbearing,” and good works, “if she continues in faith, and love, and sanctification.”

Second, from the beauty of conversation, Wis. 4[:1]: “O how beautiful is the chaste generation with glory.” Job 38[:28]: “Who begot the drops of dew?” Dew is clear and fertile and signifies honest conversation.

Third, from the rectitude of intention, thus the way from the straightway of the eagle, from the straightness of seeing, Psal. [111:2]: “The generation of the righteous shall be blessed.” Again, this is the generation of those seeking the Lord.

The evil generation is condemned from sin. And this happens three ways. First because in grace as benefits, the thief does not love his redeemer and the fat horse is recalcitrant, Deut. 32[:5-6]: “They are a wicked and perverse generation. Is this the return you make to the Lord?” Second because they are prepared for evil doing, just as the dog for tearing and chewing, Prov. 20[:20]: “He that curses his father,” etc., Deut. 32[:20]: “It is a perverse generation, and unfaithful children.” Third because of not foreseeing, such as for penance and of this kind, just as he who enters a labyrinth without a string, Psal. [77:8]: “A perverse and exasperating generation. A generation that set not their heart aright.” Concerning these three, Matt. 17[:16]: “O unbelieving and perverse generation … How long shall I suffer you?”