



The Freedom of

LIMITS

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground — everything that has the breath of life in it — I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.

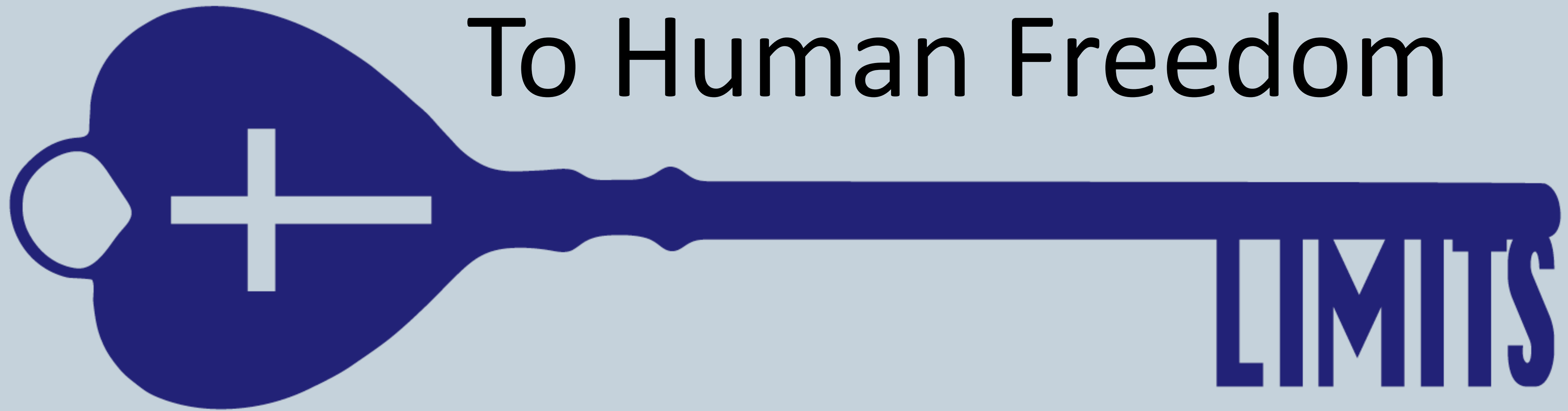
Genesis 1:26–31

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

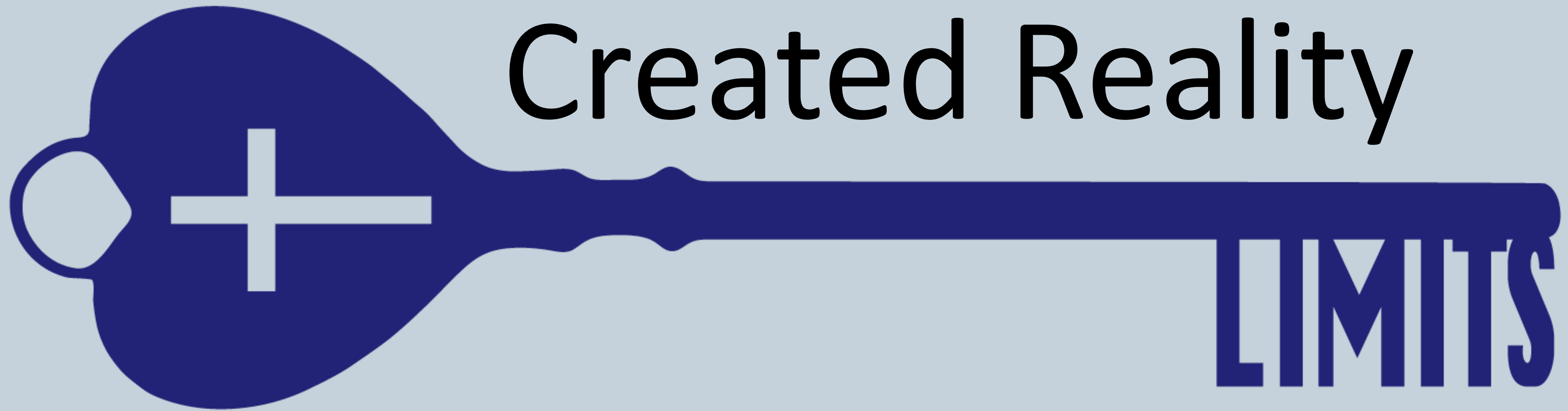
Genesis 2:15–17

The Key

To Human Freedom



The Nature Of Created Reality



The Cosmos Was Created

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...

2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

Genesis 1:1; 2:1

Definite Structure and Limits

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:1–4

The Glory And Limits Of Human Nature



The Glory of Humanity

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1:26–28

Definite Limits For Humans To Obey

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Genesis 2:15–17



Applying the
WORD

Freedom - Defining Our Own Reality?

"At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life."

Justice Kennedy, *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*

We Reject Human Nature

We are not a culture that never understood what a human being was in his nature and in his destiny. Rather we are a culture that, having once known these things, has decided against living them or understanding them. Indeed, we have decided to reject most of them, almost as an act of defiance—as an act of pure humanism—as if what we are is not first given to us.

James V. Schall, foreword to Josef Pieper, *Leisure, the Basis of Culture*, 9



We Reject The True Nature of Freedom

Anything could be true. The so-called laws of Nature were nonsense. The law of gravity was nonsense. 'If I wished,' O'Brien had said, 'I could float off this floor like a soap bubble.' Winston worked it out. 'If he thinks he floats off the floor, and if I simultaneously think I see him do it, then the thing happens.' ... It needed also a sort of athleticism of mind, an ability at one moment to make the most delicate use of logic and at the next to be unconscious of the crudest logical errors. Stupidity was as necessary as intelligence, and as difficult to attain.

(1984)

The Goal - No Human Nature

We control life, Winston, at all its levels. You are imagining that there is something called human nature which will be outraged by what we do and will turn against us. But we create human nature. Men are infinitely malleable.

(1984)

Freedom - Embrace Every Desire

He who desires but acts not, breeds pestilence...

Sooner murder an infant in its cradle than nurse unacted desires.

William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*

Creation Imposes Limits

If you draw a giraffe, you must draw him with a long neck. If, in your bold creative way, you hold yourself free to draw a giraffe with a short neck, you will really find that you are not free to draw a giraffe. The moment you step into a world of facts, you step into a world of limits.

G.K. Chesterton, *Orthodoxy*

Nature Determines True Freedom

Because a fish absorbs oxygen from water, not air, it is free only if it is restricted to water. If a fish is 'freed' from the river and put out on the grass to explore, its freedom to move and soon live is destroyed. Real freedom is finding the right restrictions.

Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*

The Key To Authentic Flourishing

We are not our own, any more than what we possess is our own. We did not make ourselves; we cannot be supreme over ourselves. We cannot be our own masters. We are God's property by creation, by redemption, by regeneration. He has a triple claim upon us. Is it not our happiness thus to view the matter?

Cardinal Newman, quoted in *Brave New World* (Chapter 17)



Applying the
WORD

The
Table
of
Freedom

