

### Chapter 3 The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

In this chapter, the Pope provides an analysis of the roots of the ecological crisis so that we not only consider its symptoms but also reflect on its deepest causes.

The Pope starts the chapter by acknowledging the many benefits that technological advancements have created. However, he warns that "...technological development has not been accompanied by a development in human responsibility, values and conscience" and he warns that technology gives those with the knowledge and resources to use them dominance. It is this mentality of dominion that leads to the exploitation of people and the destruction of natural environments.

He warns that "Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism" where humans develop a self-centered perspective as the most significant or important entity, even when human activities negatively impact the environment and our fellow man. This belief leads to a throw-away society that justifies waste and leads to treating nature and humans as simple objects.

He concludes the chapter by addressing the limitations of biological technologies. The Pope warns us that "we need to constantly rethink the goals, effects and overall context and ethical limits" of new technologies for these are "a form of power involving considerable risks."