

Lesson 2:

What is faith?

It is belief, trust, confidence

Dictionary Definition: Confidence, reliance, trust

Belief proceeding from reliance on testimony or authority

Theologic Definition: Belief in the truths of religion

What is christian faith?

In the New Testament, the word "faith" meant, "to trust someone", it is a word that connotes one's relationship to God. Faith is to trust in God.

Modern Understanding: "firm belief in that for which there is no proof"

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What is reason?

Intellectual power, capacity for rational thought and related senses. Power of the mind to think and form valid judgements by a process of logic.

A motive sufficient to lead a person to adopt or reject some course of belief

Age of reason: refer to the age at which a child is help capable

What is Christian Reason?

Only through god can you know good from bad and have morality.

Faith in God Vs. Human Resources

God	Human
(revelation)	(good works)
Grace	Law
Faith	Reason

Basically what this table is saying is that there was a debate between how we can discern right from wrong. Some argue that only through god and faith in god can we acquire this ability and others say that it is written in our hearts and we can find out on our own.

New Testament Ethics

The last of the new testament writings are from the 2nd century and these writings show that we see diversity rather than unity in the scriptures.

Bible has a variety of ethical perspectives

There are 3 distinctive features in the bible to morality

1. Bible regards people's behaviour as the direct and immediate response to God's will
2. In the New Testament, God is revealed through Christ
3. Christ formed a new covenant that built on the old covenant, so there is unity between the old and new testament. There is also a shift from letter of the law to spirit of law.

Central Theme Of Jesus

Jesus message: "The Kingdom of God is at hand"

This "kingdom" is inside every person, the kingdom of god refers to a person's acceptance of God who approached and to their adherence to a certain way of life.

His mission was to demonstrate what this acceptance was and what this way of life was.

Jesus' life was a pattern of behaviour in accord with the nature of this kingdom, it was something other people could follow.

For Jesus, perfection meant acceptance of this kingdom and it's demands.

Characteristics of New Testament Ethics

Jesus rejected formal authority as binding.

Jesus condemns ritual law, for him it's human heart that is important

Jesus had a "follow me" method, he wanted people to imitate his selfless pattern of his life, he preferred this over telling people the moral code

He used parables and stories to teach ethical behaviour instead of laws and commands

New Testament Characteristics

- Priority of love over other virtues
- Morality is not prescribed in a rigid manner

The two great commandments of new testament

- Love of god
- Love of neighbour

Early Christian Communities

Early Christians did not know they had a moral code that would deal with every situation

Jesus sayings could be interpreted, adapted and applied to different situations

There was cultural diversity among early church believers (ex Peter did not impose circumcision and other jewish customs on the house of the gentile roman officer, Cornelius)

Paul's teachings were always contextual

He told to the corinthians that women should remain silent in church, should ask their husbands at home for it is disgraceful

But to the Galatians

He said there is neither jew nor gentile, male and female you are all one in christ

They also struggled with social questions like, how should they feel about the material world and how to handle political power

Lesson 3

Natural Law

Through the first millennium we see systematic thought, becoming more and more important.

It was the era of Summas.

Summas are writings in systematic theology

Two Prominent thinkers of this time were Bonaventure and Thomas Aquinas

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

He was an Italian priest of the Roman Catholic Church, he followed Aristotle's work. For

Aquinas humans are intellectual beings and can be rational. Human's greatest skill is contemplation

Aquinas believed humans are responsible for their own actions

Humans are not spectators in the world, they are actors. God has given them the capacity to be reasonable and responsible.

Thomas believed of the ends that are potential in one's nature (acorn becoming a tree)

Aquinas believed that a good life consists of the best use of

1. One's rational powers (intellect and will)
2. One's lower capacities (appetites and bodily activities)

Teleology

Teleology is derived from the greek word telos meaning "end, purpose, goal" and logos meaning study of.

Teleological ethics is a focus on the consequences of an act. An example of this is Utilitarianism which is an action that is for the greatest good for the greatest number.

Deontology

Deontology, greek word deon meaning "law" and logos meaning study of. The focus on deontology is that the law takes priority over results of an action.

Some insist: the higher an end is, the more it justifies any means of getting there.
Others insist: In moral matters, the means affect the end.

Example: I lie to someone that my brother is out of town because my brother owes this man money and he plans to hurt my brother.

A deontologist will say what I did was wrong because lying is always wrong no matter the circumstances.

A teleologist would say that my lying was justified because I protected my brother.

The Basis Of Natural Law

Good should be sought after and done, evil avoided.

Constitutes an objective set of principles that can be seen as true by the natural light of reasons.

Natural Law assumes that human beings are essentially good and have the capacity to know and choose what is right.

Biblical Basis of Natural Law

Jesus used parables of normal human experiences to highlight basic human values.

* Paul references to nature as a source of moral knowledge for this who did not have access to the revelation of the god. Critical reflection on experience is sufficient for moral enlightenment.

Natural Law in Greek Philosophy

For Aristotle, human nature is rational, therefore morally good actions are those that are directed through reason toward the full actualization of human potential. We all have the capacity for virtue and vice, they must be developed as habits through practice

We become virtuous by doing virtuous things.

Romans and the Law of Natural Order

Cicero wrote of natural law as the innate power of reason to direct action, to live according to the law given in nature is to live according to what reason command

Order of Nature and Order of Reason

Order of nature focused on the physical structure given in nature as a source of morality and order of reason forces on the human capacity to discover in experience what promotes human flourishing and well being

Aquinas And Natural Law

He links natural law with practical reason and with eternal law, which is god is the ultimate source of moral value and obligation, everything participates in gods eternal law. Animals participate through instinct and humans through reason

The work of reason is to discover what being human means, reason does this by reflection on the whole human experience

For Aquinas, reason entails the totality of the human tendency to want to know the whole of reality and come to truth.

For Aquinas, Gods plan for us is built into our nature, law written in our hearts

Specific ends

example: learning to play a musical instrument, we make effort to plan an aim at the specific end of playing the instrument

General ends

General end which god created us

For example : happiness is what humans are oriented toward

During the time of Martin Luther, christian thinkers became less optimistic about natural knowledge, this was due to nominalism

Nominalism

Best way to understand is to compare with realism

Realist would say humanity is a universal concept that exists apart from the individuals to which humanity refers and humans share in common.

Nominalism: there is no reality called humanity, for example, there are 4 individuals, there's individuals may share something in common that we call humanity but humanity is located in the 4 individuals and not apart from the individuals

Even though John and David have different particulars, they are defined by their quality of being human (realism)

But in nominalism they are defined by these particulars.

Martin Luther

Originator of the reformation in Europe

Reformed doctrines of roman Catholic church which ended in the establishment of Protestant churches.

He hated that penances could be shortened through acts. Donating money to the church was considered "good work"

He said churches were corrupt

He insists that faith alone saves not good works

He felt that natural law undercuts the need for grace. He emphasized that fallen humanity is in need of Christs revelation if human beings are to know what is good in God's eye. Before God. Reason must submit to scripture and works must bow to faith. Reason and good works are result of the freedom gained through the unmerited forgiveness of christ

Counter Reformation

Revival of the roman catholic church

New orders and reforms

ex: Jesuits

There was a increasing amount of clergy

- Some think that the human will is so disabled by sin that it cannot choose good except through the supervention of grace (thus determinism).
- Others think that the human person has the capacity to develop and grow and so has the capacity to choose good over evil (Thus freedom).

The Council of Trent

A meeting of bishops of the whole church to discuss and settle matters of church doctrine

It was the formal response to challenges, sought to correct what luther and reformers did.

Faith alone was not sufficient for justification, it must be accompanied by hope and love

It emphasized free will and good works

For the first time a clear and formal system for the education of clergy was developed

All catholics were obligated to confess once a year

They had clear guidelines, what was allowed and what was forbidden

Manuals of moral theology to help priest determine the degree of sinfulness

What am I doing? Is it allowed? How far can I go?

Lesson 4

The Influence On Ethics

Enlightenment thinkers dramatically influenced ethics. They presented a materialist view of human being, there was an observation of explaining everything that happens in the world in terms of laws of nature, grace had NO place in the world of enlightenment

Motto: Have the courage to use your own understanding

Human reason has the power to find the truth and to live in accordance with this truth

Human beings can discover for themselves what was good and they could achieve it themselves.

Lesson 5

The Foundation

To be human is to ask what should I do.

Ethics is concerned with knowing and doing action that one believes will create positive results in one's life

No act is neutral

There are 4 distinct and recurring operations that we all do when we respond to our world

Experiencing

Humans have capacity to direct desire towards what they care about and deem important

- **Biological** - I might notice I have a headache
- **Practical** - I might start wondering how my desk is made
- **Dramatic** - I might notice that I am attracted to a person or I feel angry at someone for something they did
- **Artistic** - I might notice colours, textures and arrangements of the trees outside my window
- **Intellectual** - I might be curious about why Professor Jamieson is asking me to think about these things

Understanding

Telling jokes, we want to get the joke

We want to understand the things we notice

Judgement

A desire for truth, we have an inbuilt norm that our insights or understanding of data are true

Knowing our world

Three steps

Experiencing directs our attention to some data that we notice

Knowing what is true is not understanding bc our understanding could be wrong

Knowing what is, is judgement, weighing evidence to confirm insight is true

Decision

Involves our capacity to respond, not only do we want to know the world we want to act in it.

Human also want to act in their world so they ask WHAT SHOULD I DO?

the train story

You see someone getting beat up , you try to understand, maybe its a joke or a video theyre filming, no its real, what should I do?

Moral Horizons

Human beings are limited in our ability to know what is true and what is good.

We do not know everything

We may have unexamined biases

We may be working with lack of knowledge

We have blind spots

We will tend to care about things in our horizon and be oblivious to those things beyond it.this is why we need to expand our horizons.

Conversion

Are what expand our moral vision, It is usually painful ex: leaving a loved one behind to reach forward to grasp something new.

Lesson 6

Social Structures

Social structures are linkages among acts of meaning

example: Physical structure of house

What holds it together?, lumber, concrete, wiring, nails, dry wall. They are made up of and held together by all these materials.

Social structures are made in a similar way. They are made up of acts of meaning that are held together through linkages

Example: A university is a social structure

A good function uni requires certain obligations on the part of everyone who is involved. They are not arbitrary but rather necessary for the university to run well and in doing so, to meet the goals and desires of all involved

Imagine if teachers were always late, students always talked.

If a School was known for students cheating, the value of the degree diminishes.

Moral Knowing

What kind of knowledge is moral knowledge

It is not a quality of rightness or wrongness as if the that existed independent of actions or independent of persons.

Forms Of our Living

1) All human actions initiate a direction of change

Moral knowledge is grasping what the direction of change is. To know something is wrong is to understand how it gets in the way of human progress, and, rather, brings some form of decline in human living

2) Every situation in our life involves “relations among events”

It involves the context of the situation, the intentions of those involved, the consequences of the actions of each person and the objectives of the social structure itself. That is what moral knowledge grasp

3) Moral knowledge always aims at understanding what enriches our living together and wha destroys it

"Historically, ethical reflection arose as a response to problems in social living which could not be resolved with the tools at hand. The great ethical controversies were debates about problems, which were straining the fabric of social life and threatening social breakdown...For people from all quarters to live together requires the greatest vigilance, the closest attention to the forms of our living. This attention is the work of ethics, and its results are the strategies for the most comprehensive and durable forms of living with other people."

Levels Of Good

1) The good as something that satisfies an individual desire or a personal interest
Ex:drunk driving could be considered good because you got to your destination without having to spend money or take a bus.

2) the good as accountability to a wider social order that trashing ends personal desires
ex: desire to keep the roads safe and to make sure no one is in danger

3) Critical evaluation of the social orders themselves.

Ex:poor economy creates depression and this depression creates a high rate of drinking

Aspects Of Moral Foundations

Step 1: foundation of moral knowledge is the people performing the operations of insight, judgement and decision

To learn moral knowledge we must get the insights ourselves. Knowledge is only knowledge when someone knows it. It is only moral when it linked to a person

Step 2: The two fold thrust of moral action

both society and individual actions influence our capacity, our ability and our willingness to be virtuous.

Moral action always has double thrust, first it concerns the concrete issue we are dealing with. Second it concerns the shaping of our moral character

Step 3: There is a link between the social and the individual in relation to morality.

Social forces work through our own operations of understanding, judgement and decision. My actions have an impact on others, I participate in shaping the moral foundations of others by my actions.

Step 4: Freedom

Freedom from domination (negative)

Freedom as Self Determination (positive)

Our freedom grows as our capacity to understand, judge and decide what the right thing to do grows.

Step 5: Given this understanding what are our moral obligations

We have general moral obligations which have to do with the shaping of our moral character

We also have specific moral obligations which have to do with the concrete situation we are dealing with here and now.

We are obliged to take care of ourselves as moral persons.

We are obligated to participate in reinforcing and developing virtues patterns of social identity

We are obligated to promote development through the three levels of moral meaning

Freedom

Escape strictness of parents is freedom from domination. My whole concern is I didn't want anyone telling me what to do. Free

Freedom as self determination , made a decision to turn my life around with the help of my friend.get the help I need, I don't wanna be a drug addict I don't wanna steal

Essential freedom: capacity to be free. I had the capacity to say I Don't wanna live this way anymore.

Effective freedom: limits to that capacity, even though I'm addiction free, there still lingers in me a certain amount of the addiction, gotta be careful who I'm with, I have to be vigilant about triggers

Lesson 7

The Problem of evil

The problem of evil is how could a creator who is perfect, all knowing have made a world in which pain and evil form a large part of life?

Moral evil

Intentional breaking of law, disobedience of the will of God, examples of moral evil would be murder

Premoral evil

Not directly from human sin, natural disasters.

Nature of Evil

Evil is a absence of good, it is a negative, we know evil because of the absence of good.

Surplus of evil and the religious realm

There is a surplus of evil beyond what can be blamed on individuals. Its that surplus that pushes us into the religious realm.

How can we be good? How can a good life be possible?

These are religious questions because they concern the ultimate meaning.

Religious realm is the realm of human existence that concerns ultimate value and meaning

Evil pushes us into the religious realm because

We cant understand evil, and it can reach beyond our explicit intentions

Challenging Evil

Progress and Decline

I was married, my husband got ill, he ended up having cancer

Progress: happy life, with husband and children, a good life

Decline: husband gets terminal cancer, experience of despair, everything is falling apart, husband dies and im in depression,

I go to visit a psychologist, who is a person of faith, and lives through god, this person helps me discover god and helps me encounter god. Even though Ive gone through this experience. It gives me hope.

Eventually we move on and go into redemption, redemption does not come from progress.

No decline, no redemption, redemption must come out of decline

My life becomes a life of progress again

Christian faith as a response to challenge evil

Faith restores ones commitment because christ reveals to us that god is at work in history.

Lesson 8

Followers of Christ

Progress: what it means to be human.

Intellectual development that promotes human capacity to direct our lives in a direction toward authenticity. Progress refers to this natural development toward what is true and what is good, it is not simple and it is not easy but it is in line with what it means to be human

Decline: Blocs to understand what is true and what is good.

Example: mark lynas changing his mind on GMO good

Redemption:

Lesson 9

What we understand

Conscience as a capacity: what makes it possible for us to know and do good. Sense of responsibility in the face of the other

Conscience as a process: ethical deliberation in the process of weighing evidence and coming to a decision about what is true and what is good. We are talking about the process and the way in which human beings come to know what it is they should and should not do. Disagreement and error take place at this level.

Conscience as judgement: once the discernment has been made on has to act. The process leads us to a judgement both about what it is we must do and who it is we want to be. Conscience is incomplete if we go through all the right steps then chicken out.

As moral persons we are constituted by our choices.

- A. We need Basis moral sense. Is partly inborn and partly absorbed from cultural and family surroundings.
- B. We need to think thing through, examine our biases, inform ourselves. The goals are correct seeing and right thinking

C. This general orientation to the good (conscience 1) and careful considering of the relevant moral factors (Conscience 2) must converge to produce a judgement (conscience 3) about what I must do here and now

Example from notes

Conscience 3: Thomas must follow his conscience even if he is in the end proven wrong, after careful deliberation (conscience 2) he must follow through, he must make a judgement to act on what he has discerned is the right thing to do

As Thomas sees it, because human beings are given by god the capacity to discern right and wrong (conscience 1) we must exercise that capacity through careful deliberation (conscience 2) and finally act according to ones conscience(3)

Relation To Ethics

Three various definitions of good conscience

Erroneous: conscience not properly formed, we missing info

Vincibile: deliberately not bother to inform our conscience

Invincible: we have done all we can and we may still make the wrong decision but it is the only one we can make according to the light that we have

Formation of Conscience

There is a focus on the person making the decision

Formation of conscience includes growth in self knowledge, which is different from intellectual knowledge. Development of feelings and emotions it is not possible through individual effort. Must be open to God.

Spiritual exercises of St Ignatius

Exercises to help believers open themselves to the will of god

Source of wisdom we can consult

- 1) Human experience
- 2) Different worlds, family friends community country church media
- 3) Asking key questions, whats going on, who is involve, who will be affected, what else might I choose. Before what to do
- 4) Christian conscience: scripture, theological and ethical reflection , church authority

What are the values that guide our decisions ?

The value for more was keeping his word, being true to himself and to God

The meaning of honouring our conscience

It will set you free

Obligations in relation to conscience

1. Obligated to take responsibility for developing ourselves as moral persons
2. We are obligated to participate in reinforcing and developing virtuous patterns of social identity
3. We are obligated to promote development through the 3 levels of moral meaning to remove obstacles that block development and to reverse forces that lead to decline

Lesson 10

Kohlberg's stages

Focus here is on the kind of reasoning to use rather than the conclusions they come to

Kohlberg's model has children move from pre-conventional morality based on fear or shame to more conventional motives based on self-interest and peer respect. The higher stages of morality would be post-conventional since the mature person comes to acknowledge moral obligations as autonomous claims.

Click on a question to see a summary of each level.

1. **What is the Preconventional level?**

Preconventional Level

- What distinguishes this level is the general lack of social awareness.
- Individuals think in terms of their own intentions.
- No comprehension of the social convention that apply to a situation.

Stage	Image of God
3. Interpersonal Conformity Conforming to expectations of others Directed toward pleasing others	Fusional Stage and Loyalty Ethics. Religious faith = a fortress that protects believers. The Church = the Chosen People God = the God of our Fathers, a tribal God.
4. Law and Order Orientation (Duty) Impersonal authority of the law takes precedence over personal loyalties. Sense of duty transcends personal feelings. Need for maintaining social order.	Institutional Stage and Legalistic Ethics. The Church tells the faithful what to think and what to do. God = the Legislator

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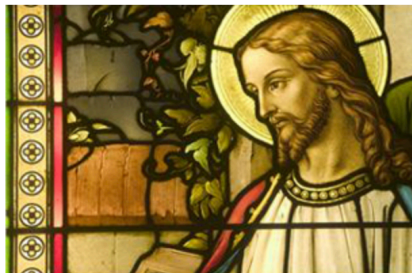
3. **What is the Postconventional level?**

Postconventional Level

- Morality is what adheres to basic principles of justice.
- Moral principles are independent of the society in which one lives.
- Morality is prior to society - is a basis for judging society.

Stage	Image of God
5. Social Contract Upholds basic rights, values and mutually agreed upon contracts of society. The validity of principles and values independent of particular groups or societies.	Interindividual Stage and Humanist Ethics. Religious faith = recognition of humanity endowed with intelligence, freewill and autonomous power. Not looking for a code of Christian behaviour.
6. Universal - Ethical Self-chosen, that is, on one's own criteria, not the group's. Decided by conscience Universal	Stage of Integrity and Ethics of Response. Religious faith - transcends formulas and creeds, in communion with the divine. God = the liberator.

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