

Lesson One - Knowing God through Creation

Purpose of Today's Lesson Is:

To learn and understand that believing in God and all that He has revealed through his creation is reasonable.

Why is this important?

- In today's world many people have adopted the attitude that there is no God → Atheists.
- We see this attitude on TV, the internet, amongst friends, relatives, and even in our schools.
- We need to be able to defend and explain our beliefs to others who do not believe in God.
- We are called to help Christ's Church grow through evangelization.

How do we know God?

1. Reason
2. Faith
3. Revelation

1. Reason

"Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse" (Rom 1:20)

What is reason?

- God created us with minds which allow us to think or reason.
- Using our minds we can think and figure things out. Puzzles..... Math problems.... Fix things, Etc.
- God gave us the gift of free will.
- Through free will we have the ability to make decisions and reason. Good or Bad. We can choose to love and follow God or to not to love and follow God.
- Some people may even use their free will to ignore or reject reason!
- Animals, while created by God do not reason – they act on instinct.
- We are different from the animals. We were created in God's own image. We are special.
- By using sound reason we can come to the conclusion that a creator or God exists when we look around at all of his creations.
- The Universe is ordered and has design → points to a God. To think that everything has happened by chance is foolish! Reason tells us otherwise.
- Reason tells us that no mere man can heal the blind, turn water into wine, or rise from the dead! Therefore it is reasonable to believe that since Christ claimed to be done and performed miracles beyond our reason that He is God.
- The First Christians believed so much that Christ was God that they were willing to be martyred and die for their beliefs.

St. Thomas Aquinas:

Born in Italy in 1225 he was a theologian, philosopher, and a Doctor of the Church. His most famous work is the Summe Theologiae which is still studied in the Church today. He studied the angels and proofs for God's existence. He developed Five Proofs of God's existence.

5 Five Proofs for the Existence of God

- 1) **First Mover:** Anything moved is moved by another. First mover → must be God.
- 2) **First Cause:** Anything caused is caused by another. First Cause → must be God
- 3) **Necessary Being:** Must be an original Being (God) to design and create other things like angels, people, animals, stars, planets, etc.
- 4) **Greatest Being:** There must be a being who is the greatest and who is the source of all greatness.
- 5) **Intelligent Designer:** The universe must have an intelligent designer who directs all things in it.

CLASS VIDEO..... What is Creation Accord to the Church – BY 3MC – 3 Minute Catechism

2. Faith

What is faith?

“Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Heb 11:1)

- It is a gift from God which allows us the grace to believe things we cannot fully understand
- God reveals certain truths to us through faith.
- Through faith we believe that the Eucharist is the real Body and Blood of Christ. It is something that no one fully understands yet we believe.
- Through faith we believe that God is three persons in one (the Holy Trinity). Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Faith is very important because through faith and works we participate in God's Grace.
- Without God's Grace we cannot be saved.

3. Revelation

What is Revelation?

“Revelation refers to the different ways God makes Himself known to man.”

- Revelation helps us come to a better understanding of God.
- Through revelation we learn that God is present everywhere and to every person.
- Through Revelation God has revealed himself as One God in Three Peron (The Blessed Trinity). We cannot fully understand this through human reason alone.
- We understand through faith that each person of the Holy Trinity are equality and infinitely great.

God has revealed himself to man through:

- Creation – using our minds to reason and study all that God has created. This leads man to the logical conclusion that there is a creator or God.
- The Bible – by studying the Bible we can come to a better understanding of God and his plan for us.
- Jesus – God came to earth as both man and God and taught His revelation to man.
- Holy Spirit – God guides the Catholic Church infallibly and reveals truth to the world.

Class Questions:

1. Using Reason can man know with certainty that there is a God? (
2. Can man understand God's plan through human reason alone?
3. How do we know God as the Blessed Trinity?
4. What is the Blessed Trinity?
5. Can you name the three person of the Blessed Trinity?
6. What is faith?
7. What is reason?

Last Question: What are you going to do when someone tells you that there is no God and that everything in the universe was created by chance?

Next weeks lesson will be on Divine Revelation through Sacred Scripture (The BIBLE!)