

What is a virtue?

Catholic Catechism: “a habitual and firm disposition to do the good.”

Wikipedia: “Traits or qualities which dispose one to conduct oneself in a morally good manner.”

The Cloud of Unknowing: (mid 14th C):

“...virtue is naught else but an ordained and a measured affection, plainly directed at God for Himself. For why? He in Himself is the pure cause of all virtues: insomuch, that if any other cause mingled with Him, yea, although He be the Chief, yet that virtue is then imperfect. As thus by example may be seen in one virtue or two instead of all the other; and well may these two virtues be meekness and charity. For whoso might get these two clearly, him needeth no more: for why, he hath all.”

MacIntyter, pp. 183-185

In Homer:

“A virtue is a quality which enables an individual to discharge his or her social role.”

In Aristotle:

“...the a virtue is a quality which enables an individual to move towards the achievement of the specifically human *telos*.”

In the New Testament:

“...the means to the end which is human incorporation in the divine kingdom of the age to come.”

In Jane Austen: a combination of the above three

For Benjamin Franklin:

“The end to which the cultivations of the virtues ministers is happiness: success, prosperity, heaven.”

On chastity: ‘Rarely use venery but for health or offspring- never to dullness, weakness or the injury of your own or another person’s peace or reputation.’

(The failure of) the Enlightenment project to rationally justify morality

Utilitarianism

Sovereignty of the individual

Controlling the moral

Dismantling the tradition

Conceptual Incommensurability

Failure to recognize ‘internal goods’

MacIntyre's three necessities:

The untutored man: there was consensus among the ancients that refinement broadened the soul, ennobled a person, and at the very least, that we all ought to learn to behave to fulfill what our social position asks of us.

What man could be: This is what moral traditions provide for, and this is what we have lost. Modern technological society values freedom above all else, so society is no longer receiving instruction in what freedom is for. We keep vestiges of this knowledge in our language, but the system has collapsed.

The reason to apprehend: our created intelligence that we may and do apply freely. For example:
-considering the narrative of one's life
-constructing the self

Teleology (Wikipedia)

Teleology is the philosophical attempt to describe things in terms of their apparent purpose, directive principle, or goal. A purpose that is imposed

Teleology in biology: the use of the language of goal-directedness in accounts of evolutionary adaptation,

Teleological argument: also known as the argument from design, or intelligent design argument is an argument for the existence

Eucharistic Prayer Number 6:

“Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendour of your radiance.”

Eucharistic Prayer Number 3 (RC):

“You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.”