

# 4.57

## THE LAW IN GENERAL



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Words to know:

promulgated (*promoted; made known*), statutes (*laws; commands*), diminishment (*the process of decreasing; becoming less*)

For Aquinas, law has quite a different sense. Law is not about \_\_\_\_\_ and obligations primarily, but rather is about a \_\_\_\_\_ or reasonable principle of \_\_\_\_\_ by which things are directed to their ends. In this way, law is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Aquinas also says that law is a \_\_\_\_\_ and measure of human acts.

In a similar way (to a ruler), the law \_\_\_\_\_ us in our actions to make sure they're upright and ordered to the \_\_\_\_\_.

"Law is an ordination of \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ from him who has \_\_\_\_\_ of the community, which is promulgated and made known." —St. Thomas Aquinas

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| <b>LAW IS...</b>  |
| <b>An ordination of _____</b><br>For Aquinas, law is not a commandment of the superior's will; it's an expression of his _____, consisting in a kind of reasoned _____ or ordering of things towards the common _____.  |
| <b>Ordered to the _____</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The common good is the _____ that law aims at and serves.</li> <li>• The common good is an end, and it can be shared by many without _____ or diminishment.</li> <li>• Ex. _____</li> <li>• The common good is _____, which means you can find it in many different registers.</li> <li>• It can also be found in ever greater _____ and _____.</li> <li>• _____ is the common good and final end of all that is.</li> </ul> |

## FOUR TYPES OF LAW

### Eternal Law:

The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ as it preexists in the divine mind.  
God creates the whole \_\_\_\_\_ and every being in it in its right \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to its proper end or \_\_\_\_\_.

### Natural Law:

Eternal law is not only in God's mind; it's also in \_\_\_\_\_.  
He imprints on their very being an \_\_\_\_\_ for creatures towards their proper acts and ends.  
The rational creature's \_\_\_\_\_ in the eternal law.

### Divine (Positive) Law:

What God revealed through \_\_\_\_\_ in the Old and New \_\_\_\_\_ about how humans beings should \_\_\_\_\_ in order to come to the supernatural good of \_\_\_\_\_.  
Things we never could have discovered on our \_\_\_\_\_, since knowing and traveling on the way to perfect communion with the \_\_\_\_\_ completely exceeds what our \_\_\_\_\_ is capable of by its own power.

### Human Law:

Application or \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ on various levels in particular \_\_\_\_\_.  
More particular and \_\_\_\_\_ than the natural law.  
Doesn't apply everywhere; aims to direct this particular \_\_\_\_\_ and its members to their proper \_\_\_\_\_.

**Comprehension question:** If, as St. Thomas says, the eternal law of God is implanted in his rational creatures (natural law), why do we need divine positive laws, such as the ten commandments, to be revealed to us?