



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

LAW IS...

An ordination of _____

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 _____.

Ordered to the _____

- The common good is the _____ that law aims at and serves.
- The common good is an end, and it can be shared by many without _____ or diminishment.
- Ex. _____
- The common good is _____, which means you can find it in many different registers.
- It can also be found in ever greater _____ and _____.
- _____ is the common good and final end of all that is.





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?

