



4.58

NATURAL LAW



Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to know:

precept (*law, command*), inclination (*a natural tendency towards or desire for something*)

The _____ law is the rational creature's participation in the _____ law.

Our Spiritual Nature:

Human beings are like these things (animals) in a certain way. We're creatures with material _____ and so we have an inclination to remain in _____, to seek food and self-preservation, to _____ and to raise offspring.

Yet unlike these creatures, we are endowed with the power of _____.

Our spiritual nature is not _____ to our natural inclinations.

Our spiritual nature lies at the root of our _____ and gives it its vital energy.

God has imprinted in creatures their _____ to their proper _____ and _____ in accordance with God's eternal plan. . . We (human beings) have inclinations that belong to us in virtue of our _____.

"The precepts of the natural law follow the order of our natural inclinations." —St. Thomas Aquinas

NATURAL LAW:

Five Principal Natural Inclinations:

- 1.
2. Self-_____
- 3.
4. Knowing the _____
5. Living in _____

Aquinas thinks that these five inclinations really are features of the kind of _____ that we are, that they give us a fundamental _____ towards what will make us increasingly _____ and increasingly _____.





Natural law is not _____ on us by some alien will that commands from above, but the very _____ of our being.

As we come to know this, we're then able to _____ and freely in this plan. We _____ ourselves, our acts, beings lower than us, and even our communities according to this plan by the use of our _____.

This is, in an important sense, the very purpose of our _____, that we would be the creatures that order ourselves freely and knowingly to _____, according to His plan.

Relation Between Natural Law and Human Law:

Aquinas thinks that a human law is only _____ when it's in accord with a _____ law.

The natural law is most clear with respect to certain _____ and _____ precepts. Ex. _____

Aquinas thinks that an important part of the job of human lawmakers is to _____ and apply the general precepts of the natural law in a particular context and for a particular community.

Then, always respecting what the _____ law demands in its negative precepts, human lawmakers should write laws that order their community towards its _____.

Comprehension questions:

1. Given what St. Thomas says about the natural law, are things right or wrong because they are legal or illegal? (For example, is murder wrong because it's illegal? Explain.)
2. Do you think our society is generally ordered according to the natural law? Why or why not?
3. Give an example of a human law that you think is closely aligned with the natural law. Give an example of one that goes against the natural law.

