

EVERYTHING YOU FORGOT FROM CCD

Session 1 -- Fall 2010

St. Raymond's Roman Catholic Church

THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY



“The evangelization of culture is all the more important in our times when a ‘dictatorship of relativism’ threatens to obscure the unchanging truth about man’s nature, his destiny and his ultimate good.... For this reason I appeal to you, the lay faithful, in accordance with your baptismal calling and mission, ...to put the case for the promotion of faith’s wisdom and vision in the public forum.”

RELATIVISM



Relativism is the view that all points of view are equally valid. Not only do people not live this way, nobody really *wants* to live that way.

“CHARACTER EDUCATION”

Commitment - Be loyal;
Fulfill obligations

Responsibility - Accept
responsibility for the
consequences of your
actions

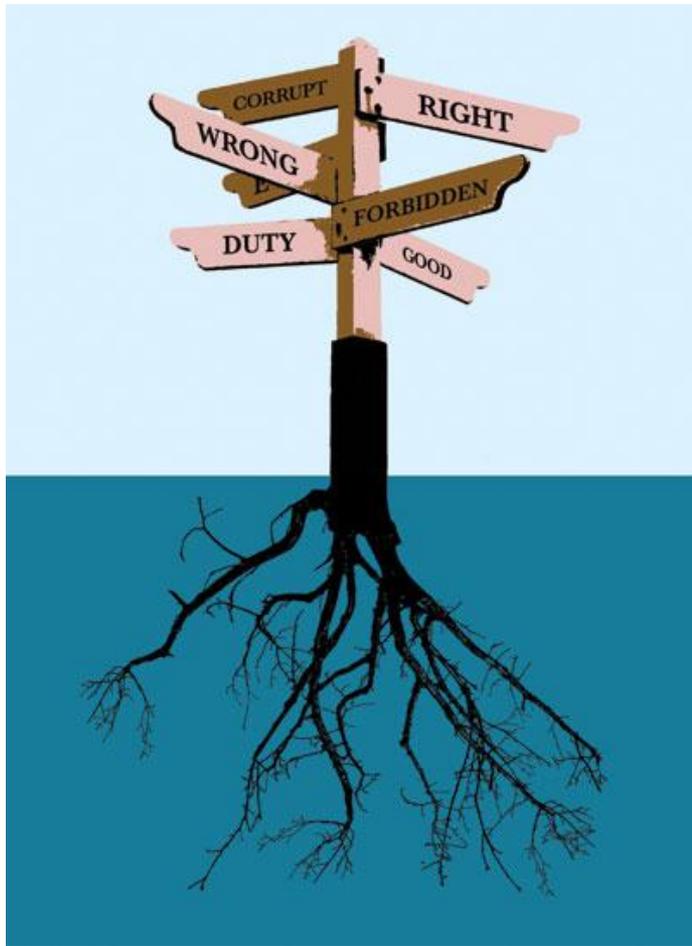
Integrity - Be true to who
you are; Don't give in to
peer pressure; Do the
right thing

Respect - Appreciate the
uniqueness of yourself and
others; Be courteous



Lake Braddock Secondary School

MORAL PARTICULARITY



In order to speak coherently about morality it is necessary to speak in the language of particular traditions. No such thing as “general morality” exists. To speak about morality in general terms reduces people to yawning platitudes like, “Be nice.”

FREEDOM FROM AND FREEDOM FOR



Thomas Aquinas taught that freedom can be understood as freedom *from* and freedom *for*. Freedom *from* is simply an expression of the desire for no restraint. Freedom *for* means you want the freedom that will enable you to achieve particular things. True freedom is not about the *lack* of restraint, but of having the *right* restraints.

MORALITY AND RELIGION

One of the principal features of religion is morality. After making some claim about what is the nature of the ultimate Reality, religions make claims about what kind of people we need to be. Morality, therefore, is where CCD begins.



WHY DO PEOPLE OBJECT TO MORALITY?

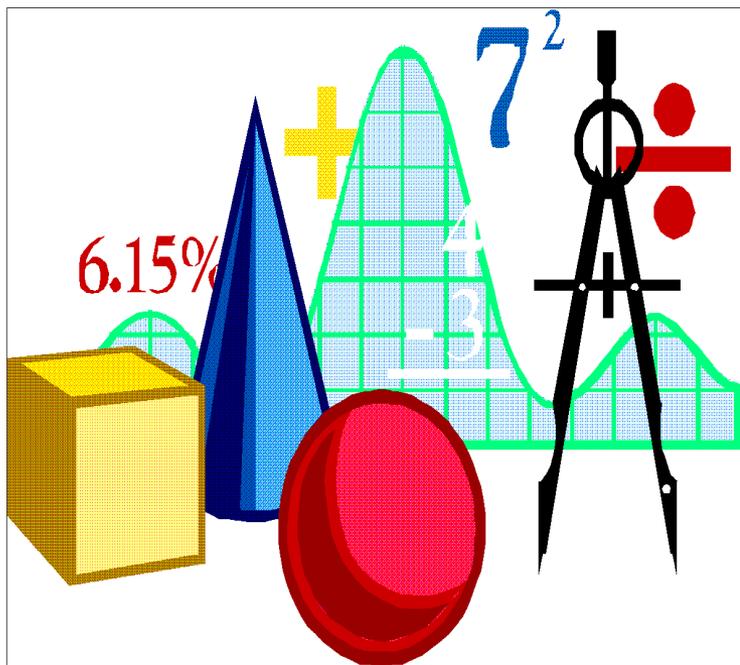
Many object to moral prescriptions, saying things like, “You’re just trying to control me!” In actuality, morality is about *not* living a life that is fake. It is about living a life that is authentic, powerful and full.



**MORALITY IS DOING WHAT
IS RIGHT REGARDLESS OF
WHAT YOU ARE TOLD**

**RELIGION IS DOING WHAT
YOU ARE TOLD REGARDLESS
OF WHAT IS RIGHT**

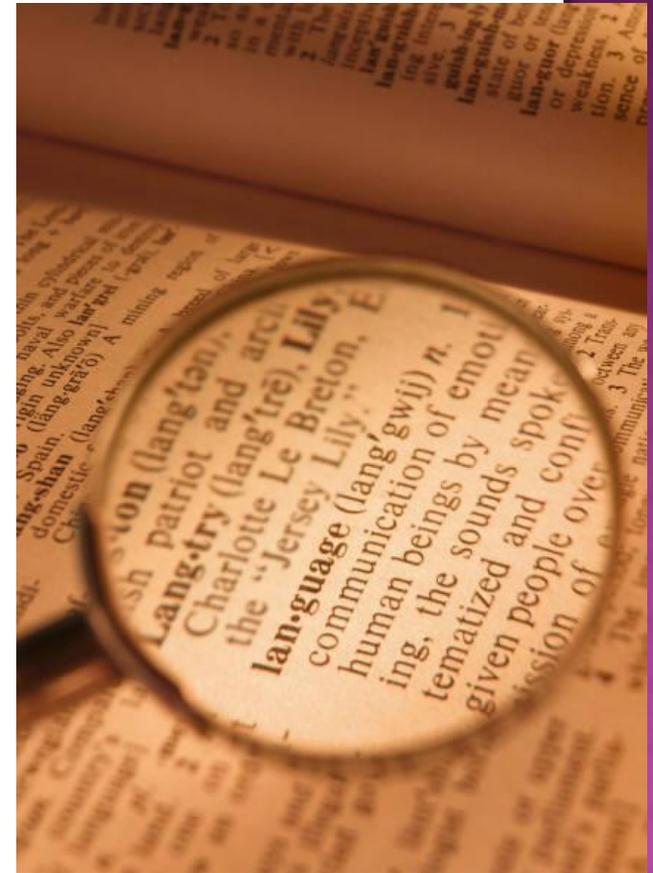
MENTAL REALITIES



Did people invent mathematics or discover it? Most mathematicians would say that we discover it, that mathematical properties and relationships existed before we knew them. Mathematics, however, is not a reality that is perceived by the senses. It is a *mental* reality - you need a mind to see it.

MENTAL REALITIES

Language, like mathematics, is completely rule-driven, and no thought can take place without it. All human beings appear to be hard-wired to develop and understand language. Language is another of those mental realities that can only be perceived by a mind.



MENTAL REALITIES



Consciousness - the ability to think about thinking, to regard oneself simultaneously as a subject and an object of thought - is another human characteristic that cannot account for itself. A conscious mind is required to even ask a question about it. To deny the reality of consciousness would require us to regard the world as an illusion.

MENTAL REALITIES

Imagine something you consider really wrong, something so wrong that even if everyone said it was right, it would still be wrong. Why do you think that way? Most people have an intuitive sense that there are rights and wrongs that are bigger and more real than our agreements (or disagreements) about them.

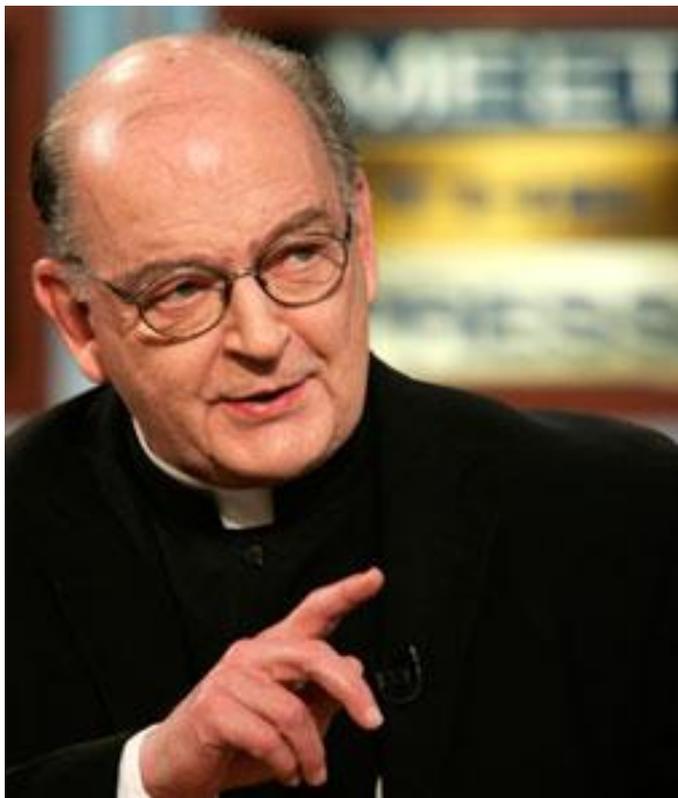


THE ORIGINS OF RELIGION

The existence of these mental realities - mathematics, language, consciousness and morality- is at the root of all the great world religious traditions. Experience has shown many over the ages that behind physical reality there is a mental reality, a Mind and a Consciousness that is real. Religions that survive and thrive put adherents in touch with this Reality.



WHO GETS IT RIGHT?



Fr. Richard John Neuhaus

“The Catholic Church is the Church of Jesus Christ most fully and rightly ordered through time.” The Catholic Church enables faithful Christians to talk about the larger, more real world – of which most people are intuitively aware – in ways that are more helpful, complete and true.

COMING NEXT:

The Ten Commandments are an outline of the kind of life that is expected in response to the saving acts of God. They answer the question, “When you are getting it right about the world that is ‘really real’, what does your life look like?”

