



ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY

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Bridging Religion and Science Through Ethics

To the partial fulfillment of the requirements in the subject
Ethics

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The role of Catholic Ethical thought in the Medieval times, the Roman Catholic Church played a great role in the development of England and had much more power than the Church of today does. In Medieval England, the Roman Catholic Church dominated everyday life and controlled everyone whether it is knights, peasants or kings. The Church was one of the most influential institutions in all of Medieval England and played a large role in education and religion. The Church was the center of life in medieval western Europe. During the Middle Ages, the Church was a daily presence from birth to death. It provided education and helped the poor and sick. The difference of Classical ethical teachings of Plato and Aristotle to the role of Catholic Ethical thought in the Medieval Society is that Plato and Aristotle believe more on the side of science and logical reasoning than Faith. They really believe in what does their eyes see and what is existing, they based their belief on facts and what it is seen by the eyes of many.

Bentham's philosophy of ethics began with his observation that people act out of self – interest. He then identified the Principle of Utility or the Greatest Happiness Principle as the moral guideline for living: approve or disapprove of an action according to its tendency to augment or diminish happiness. A key premise of his philosophy of ethics was that "the right thing to do" could not be determined by emotions: one could not "feel" the way to an ethical decision. To the contrary, and perhaps mirroring his legendary rigid lifestyle, Kant looked to absolute duties that should be consistently and universally applied. Augustine is certainly the most important and influential philosopher of the Middle Ages, and one of the most influential philosophers of any time: His theory of illumination lives on in Malebranche and in Descartes's "light of nature." His approach to the problem of evil and to human free will is still widely held today.

Ethics can help bridge religion in the Medieval Period because during this period moral theology was shaped predominantly by a concern about the sins one should avoid, and not about the good to be pursued. Similar with emphasis on one's own moral state, the Christian's communal self-understanding was less important, a long period of moral narcissism began in which Christians became anxious not about the kingdom or the needs of the Church, but about the state of their individual souls (Harrington,2005). Science on the other hand there are some things that cannot be explained nor prove things about religion and vice versa. Science is focused on logical reasoning and experiments in other words they are based on proofs and facts that are actually existing. While on religion, we cannot take experiments to see the actual existence but we just trust on the word and have faith in him our God and always believe in every work he does in our daily life.

Reference:

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