

# CHRISTIAN MORALITY: The Way to Happiness

*Theology for the Laity Course*  
*St. Louis Bertrand Parish – Fall 2021*

Fr. Michael O'Connor, O.P., S.T.D.

---

***“Do not conform yourself to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”***

(Romans 12:2)

- THEOLOGY = *“fides quaerens intellectum”* ~ *“faith seeking understanding”*
    - Scriptural Theology
    - Dogmatic Theology
    - Moral Theology
  - THOMISTIC MORAL THEOLOGY: *What has God made us for, and how do we attain it?*
    - God has made us for Himself (Perfect Happiness), and the way that we attain God is through our free actions, aided by the gifts of *Law, Grace, and Virtue*.
- 

## CLASS 1: Perfect Happiness

- MORALITY FOLLOWS ANTHROPOLOGY
  - Action follows being: *“The operation of anything follows the mode of its being.”*  
(*ST Ia, q. 75, a. 3*)
- TELEOLOGICAL MORALITY
  - *“It belongs to man to do everything for an end.”* (*ST IaIIae, q. 1, a. 1*)
  - Human actions / Acts of a human
  - True good / Apparent good
    - *“Everything is said to be good so far as it is perfect.”* (*ST Ia, q. 5, a. 5*)

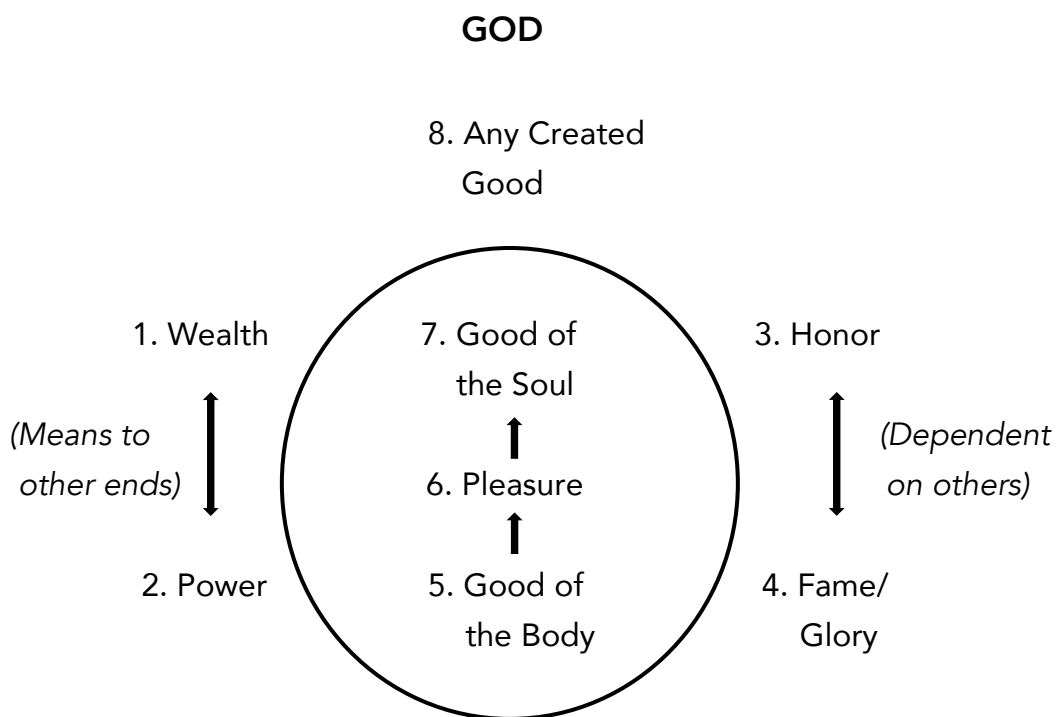
- MAN'S FINAL END
  - Man has a final end: The Supreme Good (*Summum Bonum*)
  - There can only be *one* final end
  - Man wills all that he wills *for the sake of* that one final end
  - All men have the *same* final end

- PERFECT HAPPINESS

- "All men desire to be happy." (*ST Iallae, q. 5, a. 8*)
  - "But happiness can be considered in two ways.

*First, according to the general notion of happiness: and in this way, every man necessarily desires happiness. For the general notion of happiness consists in the perfect good. And since the good is the object of the will, the perfect good of a man is that which entirely satisfies his will. Consequently, to desire happiness is nothing else than to desire that one's will be perfectly satisfied.*

*Secondly, we may speak of happiness according to its specific notion: as to that in which it consists. And in this way, all do not know happiness because they do not know in what thing the general notion of happiness is found. And consequently, in this respect, not all men desire it."*



- Perfect Happiness consists in nothing but the Beatific Vision (the vision of God)