

THE “PRINCIPLE AND FOUNDATION”

Presented in a logical and sketchy way:

1) A Fact:

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I EXIST, I AM. I WAS NOT.

BESIDES ME, MANY OTHER THINGS EXIST.
THEY WERE NOT BEFORE. THEY ARE NOW.

HOW did I and all other things come to be?

- Not on our own. We are contingent.
- We came to be through God’s power and will.

WHY did God create us all?

- Out of his free and boundless love.
- It was his free decision and choice
- We are the fruits of God’s love.
- *WE LOVE GOD because HE IS. We ARE because GOD LOVED US (St. Augustine)*

2) A Purpose:

WHAT FOR DID GOD CREATE US?

God created me that I may:

- Know him.
- Love him
- Serve him.
- Attain eternal happiness.

WHAT FOR DID GOD CREATE ALL OTHER THINGS?

God created all the other things in the universe
that they may help me to:

- Know him
- Love him.
- Serve him.
- Attain eternal happiness.

3) A Norm,

HOW TO ATTAIN THAT PURPOSE?

By “A CONDITIONAL USE OF ALL THINGS”

- We have to use all things in so far as they help us to attain the end for which we were created, namely to know, to love and to serve God and so save ourselves..
- and we have to rid ourselves of them all in so far as they prove a hindrance to us to attain the aim for which we were created.

4) A Requirement TO MAKE THE NORM WORK.

“INDIFFERENCE”

- We must make ourselves indifferent to all created things.
- As far as we are allowed free choice and are not under prohibition, we should not prefer:
 - Health to sickness.
 - Riches to poverty.
 - Honor to dishonor.
 - Life to death
 - And the same holds good for all other things.

5) Two Conclusions Follow:

One: Our only desire and choice should be what is more conducive to the end for which we were created, therefore,

Two: We have to choose only what is most helpful to us to attain the purpose for which we were created.

APPENDIX

Spiritual Freedom

**For God’s love, for Christ’s Love
I should be willing and prepared:**

- To be Rich or to be Poor
- To be clever or to be dull,

- To be handsome or to be ugly,
- To be strong or to be weak,
- To be attractive or to be repulsive,
- To be educated or to be illiterate,
- To be healthy or to be sick,
- To be active or to be jobless,
- To be considered or to be forgotten,
- To be loved or to be ignored.
- To be Successful or to A Failure,
- To be honored or to be despised,
- To be rewarded or to be passed over,
- To be popular or to be unknown,
- To have friends or to be lonely,
- To live long or to die soon.

On neither can I set my Heart

- In both I can equally serve God
- Each is a gift of God,
- And as such of equal value.

This only truly matters

- To lovingly choose whatever God Wills
- And to generously carry it out,

Because:

- He loved me into existence,
- Because in Him I am, I move, I live.

Because

- He is my Saviour and he died for me.

(Adapted from A. Goodier)