

# Politics and Christian Civilization

## Class Four : What is Man: Session One

Politics according to Aristotle it is the **“Architectonic Science”**  
The science of planning in all areas for human betterment. As such requires knowledge in all areas of human endeavor because in all areas laws will be made.

The state thus exists to serve man to live a truly good life.

Because Politics is about the study of the good life for society or individuals in community, it follows Ethics and Psychology which are antecedent to its study.

To answer these questions, Political Science needs both inductive empirical methods and deductive philosophical ones. Knowing what should be without knowing what is irrelevant or useless.

Knowing what is without knowing what should be is also useless. It is practical but imprudent. Knowing what should be without knowing what is, is useless. Need both.



Louis Pasteur:  
“The Scientific Method”



Confucius or Master Kong  
“The Philosophic Method”

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What is best form of government? Best government will be one that best meets requirements for the purposes of government to help human beings pursue their end.

"We ought to consider what is the end of government, before we determine which is the best form. Upon this point all speculative politicians will agree, that the happiness of society is the end of government, as all divines and moral philosophers will agree that the happiness of the individual is the end of man. From this principle it will follow, that the form of government which communicates ease, comfort, security, or, in one word, happiness, to the greatest number of persons, and in the greatest degree, is the best.

All sober inquirers after truth, ancient and modern, pagan and Christian, have declared that the happiness of man, as well as his dignity, consists in virtue. Confucius, Zoroaster, Socrates, Mahomet, not to mention authorities really sacred, have agreed in this.

If there is a form of government, then, whose principle and foundation is virtue, will not every sober man acknowledge it better calculated to promote the general happiness than any other form?"



J o h n A d a m s  
Second U S President



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### **Nicomachean Ethics Book I Chapter IX:**

“And this will be found to agree with what we said at the outset; for we stated the end of political science to be the best end, and political science spends most of its pains on making the citizens to be of a certain character, viz. good and capable of noble acts.”

### **Nichomachean Ethics: Book I Chapter XIII**

"The true student of politics, is thought to have studied virtue above all things; for he wishes to make his fellow citizens good and obedient to the laws...

### **Book II Chapter I**

"Legislators make the citizens goods by forming in them habits, and that is the wish of every legislator, and those who do not effect it miss the mark, and it is in this that a good constitution differs from a bad one

If human beings act to achieve their end by good and noble acts they can pursue happiness:

### **Book I Chapter IV: “Nichomachean Ethics”:**

"Both the general run of men and people of superior refinement say that the good that political science aims at and what is the highest of all goods achievable by action is happiness, and identify living well and doing well with being happy.”



Aristotle and Plato



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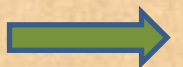
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But Aristotle is not talking about any kind of happiness.

He is **not** talking about animal or plant happiness; He is talking about human happiness.

### **Aristotle, Ethics, Book I, Chapter XIII**

"By human virtue we mean not that of the body but that of the soul; and happiness also we call an activity of soul. But if this is so, **clearly the student of politics must know somehow the facts about soul**, as the man who is to heal the eyes or the body as a whole must know about the eyes or the body; and all the more since politics is more prized and better than medicine; but even among doctors the best educated spend much labour on acquiring knowledge of the body. **The student of politics, then, must study the soul, and must study it with these objects in view, and do so just to the extent which is sufficient for the questions we are discussing**; for further precision is perhaps something more laborious than our purposes require."



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To answer this question, Aristotle began by observation to categorize all phenomena in physical world according to their unique structure, functions, and purpose or **TELEOLOGY**. That is their final cause.

All things operate for an end or purpose which is the good or their fulfillment the development of their potential. All things operate toward an end.

How know their final cause or end?

Know its formal cause by analysis OF THEIR PARTS AND HOW THEY WORK ALONE AND TOGETHER AS AN INTEGRAL UNITY. CAN THEN SEE A THING'S POTENTIALS AND ITS POWERS MANIFESTED IN ITS FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS By which knowledge of its end is achieved.

Functions/operations give evidence of a power which utilizes the function.

If divide human into parts find functions of different physiological systems such as circulatory, respiratory, muscular, etc.

When a human being knows something this way, he is said to have knowledge of its form or its essence of what it is

We are not after any or all functions but those by which a human being is distinguished from all other beings, that which makes human beings unique.



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**Aristotle is after those functions that make humans unique and it is argued that those functions reside in the soul which also must be analyzed or dissected into parts.**

But because THE SOUL CANNOT BE SEEN, have to study it by its effects.

A cause may be discerned by knowledge of its effects, “You know a tree by its fruit.”

To acquire knowledge of the form of the soul must study its effects or the fruits it accomplishes through its body.

THUS WE MUST LOOK FOR EVIDENCE OF THE SOUL BY STUDYING THE HUMAN BODY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR, analyze it ,synthesize, and classify according to essence or species = that which makes the human unique and different from all other things permitting humans to be classified according to this thing AS A UNIQUE SPECIES.



“You know a tree by its fruit.”



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**SPECIES REPRESENT FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES AMONG CREATURES**

Ultimate test of species = **GENETIC ISOLABILITY**



Donkey

+



Horse

=



Mule

