

Class: Reason and Faith – The Two Major Responses to God’s Revelation

Objective – *The class objective is to paint a broad picture of how faith and reason can be used as responses to God’s revelation. Students will be able to walk away with practical examples of how faith and reason were responses to God throughout all of the Church’s history.*

KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. Reason – The use of the human mind to seek and understand truth.
2. Faith – A gift from God enabling a personal and intellectual adherence to God and all that He reveals through trust and belief.
3. Belief – The intellectual and willful assent to truths revealed by God, accepting them not based on personal evidence but on the authority of God, who is truth itself.
4. Fides Et Ratio – An Encyclical written by Saint Pope John Paul II wholly addressing the relationship between faith and reason.
5. Saint Peter and Saint Paul – Two early apostolic leaders within the Church who represented a response to God’s revelation through reason and faith, as evident in scriptural witness to Peter’s devotion to Christ and leadership of the early church, and Paul’s innumerable epistles, teaching on the Gospels.
6. Martyr – Someone who voluntarily suffers death as a witness to their faith in God. A martyr is an example within the history of the church that responds to God in faith as evident by their deaths.
7. Saints Justin Martyr, Clement of Alexandria, and Ignatius of Antioch – Early Church fathers who wrote extensively in defense of the Catholic Church. Their writings and teachings are further evidence to reason as a response to God in Church History.
8. Desert Monks – Early monastic communities of prayerful and faithful Christians, who withdrew from the world and devoted their life to prayer, becoming an example of faith being applied in the first few centuries of the Church as a response to God.
9. Mystics - A spiritual path of seeking intimate union with God through a transformed, prayerful, and contemplative life. Essentially, one enters into a prayerful state so connected with God that they encounter visions and moments of ecstasy. Mysticism is another example of Faith as a response to God’s revelation playing out in the history of the Church.
10. Scholasticism - A medieval method of theology and philosophy that uses reason to understand and explain religious faith.
11. Missionary - A person dedicated to spreading the Gospel and Catholic teachings, often traveling to new places to serve communities through evangelization, education, and humanitarian aid.