
Ask The Philosophy Majors

If a giant, say 1000 times bigger than you, should in an act of friendship pick you up in the palm of his hand and sustain you high up in the air, would it not be the height of foolishness to rebel, to strike at him, at him who holds you up, at him who if he withdrew his hand would send you hurtling to the ground-without any parachute, either?

That comparison gives us a slight appreciation of our dependence on God. God, the First Cause, Self-existent Cause, due to love, brings us, raises us up out of nothing, brings us into existence and that self-same Cause is required for our continuing existence.

What if God withdrew for one moment His preservation of me, His sustaining me in my being and existence? What would happen? Would I die?

That's only the half of it. I wouldn't just die with soul separated from body, but my whole being would just curl up and go-pooof-into nothingness, less than air.

That's how much nothingness we really are of ourselves. Our continuing existence depends entirely on God. But that is not all. St. Paul says: "In Him we live and move and have our being." Nothing that is produced is independent of the First Cause. The reality of action, our actions - living, moving, thought, volitions, deeds - all depend for their reality upon Him.

Sins are imperfect, defective actions. Paradoxically, they are evil precisely for what they are not. Sin fails to measure up to the standard of law and reason. Even when man sins, the reality of action in so far as it is reality goes back to the Supreme Reality, God. What a terrifying thought! Even in the act of sin, man is conserved in being by God. More, man draws on the Divine Power by which he lives (like the pygmy in the hand of the giant) and moves and brings forth an action, defective, imperfect, unreasonably ugly, with all the ugliness of deformity in the very sight and power of his God.

Sin, rebellion against God is unreasonable and stupid - and worse.

For, we must not forget that the infinite God, Who created the universe and its immense and innumerable planets appreciates more, and receives more honor and glory from, one bit of our free will exercised in an act of love than from all the universal, and astounding obedience of those planets to the law He ordained for them.

Think on this and you'll get the answer to some of the questions that we discussed with a junior the other day: Is one religion as good as another? Should we pray to honor God or to give ourselves a thrill and emotional satisfaction?

And we must never forget that this infinite God wants to be regarded as our Father-which He really is. One student submitted a very good thanksgiving after Communion, based on this fact. It is simple and can be extended to your own satisfaction. It's based on the key-word FATHER and consists of acts of or statements, expressions of F-Faith, A-Adoration, T-Thanksgiving, H-Humility, E-Entreaty, R-Resolution, the latter promising some good thing, study, mortification, avoidance of sin, practice of some virtue, charity, patience, humility, or visit to adoration, or the Chapel.

PRAYERS: (deceased) father of D. Hummer (Cav). Ill, sister of Sr. Marie, O.P. 8 S. I.

