

## Religion, Morality and Conscience by John Arthur

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn the connection between Religion, Morality and Conscience, if there is any. I expect to gain a deeper understanding of what these three words are and also its importance.

Quote:

*"Morality provides the standards we rely on in gauging our interactions with family, lovers, friends, fellow citizens, and even strangers."*

Book review:

In this essay religion is viewed as a belief that is responsible with the teaching of morality. On the other hand, morality was described in the essay as the code to righteousness, a community without social moral code would not be a community at all. Conscience as we all know is in line with morality, it is the sense of what is right and what is wrong. Conscience is based on people judgement; an action with a good end result is of moral action and for an immoral action it is vice versa. So, putting all the definitions aside, John Arthur, the author of the essay raised the question "does morality depend on religion?" Well, personally I do believe that 1) morality doesn't depend on religion and that 2) some religions depend on morality. Morality for me is purely social, like what the author stressed out goodness within is in the nature of a person. A person that belongs in a community with social moral code will be of good moral conduct. Morality is something that can be learned free without the use of writings or hearing mass because through social interaction with the right people improve a person's morality. In morality, there is no divine command telling you what is right and what is wrong, morality completely relies on a person's judgement on what right and what is wrong based on the outcome of their actions. The author is not stating that religion is not bad thing, in fact in some religions, their ministers' help by sharing beliefs and sharing teachings to further develop morality within their members. But we cannot exclude the fact that some religions are formed with self interest of others, for some religion morality is not that important because for their ministers, their self interest is what is important. For some people religion is very important because it is in religion that they find euphoria and feelings belongingness. The bottom line is, morality is purely social; it is in the nature of people to be good because as the saying goes, all people have goodness within.

What I have learned:

Morality is social, moral conduct is something that can be developed through social interaction with the right persons. Religion is belief that teaches morality that helps to develop a person's character.

Integrative questions:

- 1) Does morality depend on religion in some way?
- 2) Does religion depend on morality in some way?
- 3) How is morality social?

- 4) What is the purpose of morality?
- 5) How will life be without morality?