

Contemplative looking

Michelangelo

1

Pope Benedict Rome June 2007

‘Pastoral Care of the Intelligence’

‘By educating in the faith,
a very important task is entrusted to Catholic schools. Indeed,
they must carry out their mission
on the basis of an educational project
which places the Gospel at the centre
and keeps it as a decisive reference point
for the person’s formation
and for the entire cultural programme.’

2

Pope Benedict UK 17th September 2010

As you move higher up the school, you have to make choices regarding the subjects you study, you begin to specialize with a view to what you are going to do later on in life. That is right and proper. But always remember that every subject you study is part of a bigger picture.

Never allow yourselves to become narrow. The world needs good scientists, but a scientific outlook becomes dangerously narrow if it ignores the religious or ethical dimension of life, just as religion becomes narrow if it rejects the legitimate contribution of science to our understanding of the world.

We need good historians and philosophers and economists, but if the account they give of human life within their particular field is too narrowly focused, they can lead us seriously astray.

3

- Radical importance of scientific method
- Judgments based on tested evidence
- Liberated from submission to untested authoritarian abstractions
- trust teaching that is the fruit of experience

4

Experience is not limited
to what can be tested by scientific method



5



6



7



8

Apollo & Daphne

Bernini

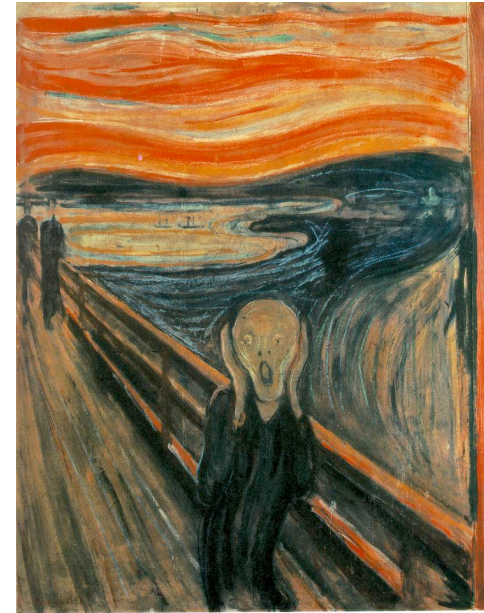


9

Edvard Munch

The Cry

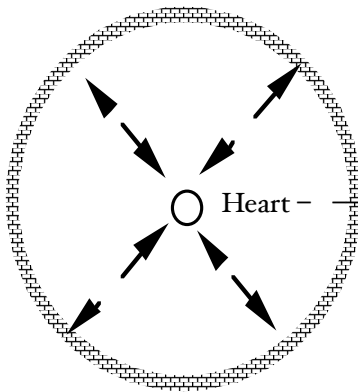
1893



10

Too busy
Iso gashii

忙

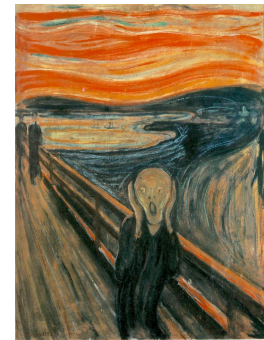


Religious
Experience

Re + ligare To bind back

11

God
Sanskrit Ghu ('called' 'calling') + To ('The one')



God
Centre - Heart
Religious Experience is
Experience of
Communion with 'God'

God 'The Heart and the Beyond of Everything' (Teilhard de Chardin)

Holy

12

God's WORD (self-gift) is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness of the transcendent & mysterious God

13

God's WORD (self-gift) is experienced

- the Vedas & Upanishads
- the sayings of K'ung-fu-tzu (Confucius)
- the sayings of Gautama the Buddha
- the oracles of the Hebrew Scriptures
- the New Testament
- the Moslem Qur'an
- the mystics, poets, artists of all cultures

14

Gerard Manley Hopkins : God's Grandeur (1877)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reck his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.

15

Danger

Projecting a 'God' limited by our human experiences

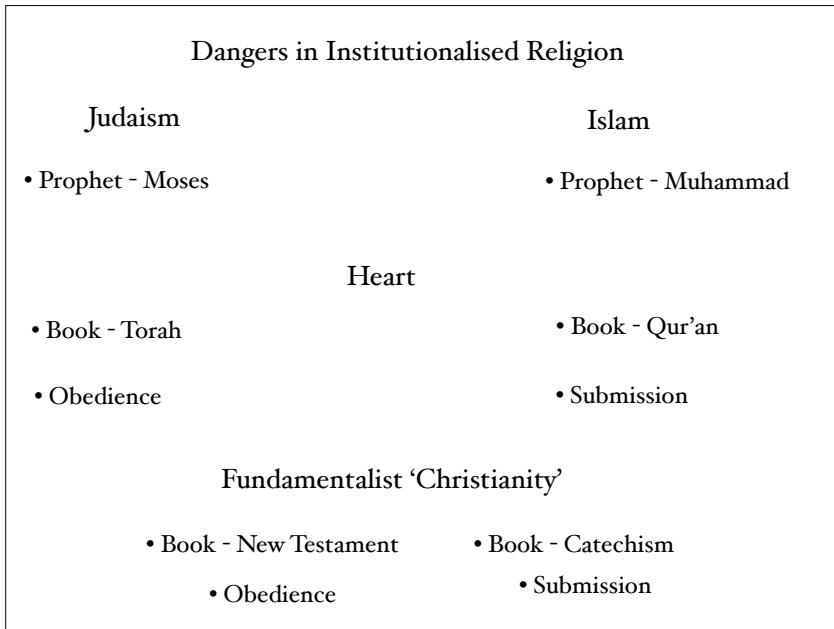
Creating a 'God' in our own image

This spawns

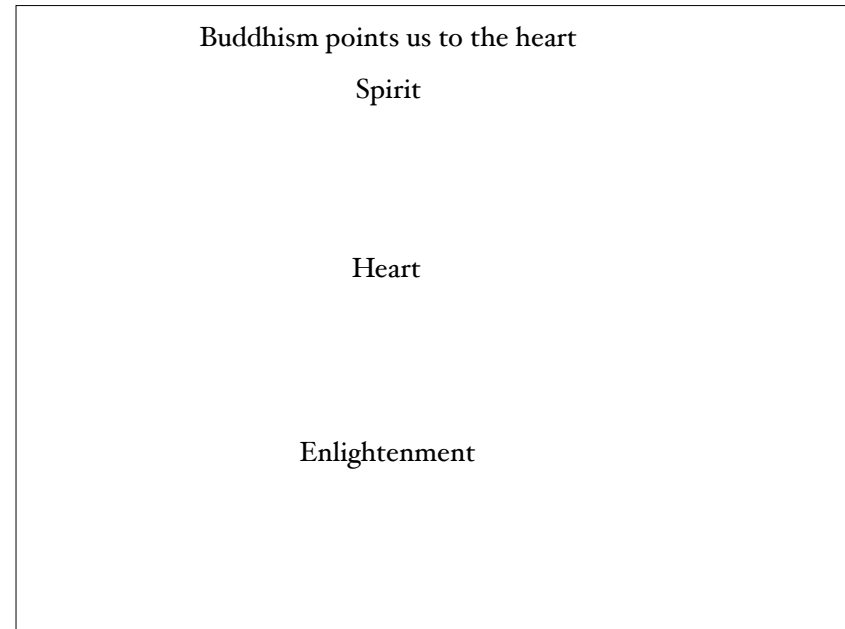
atheism: the rejection of a limited God

agnosticism: failure to explore the implications of our experience

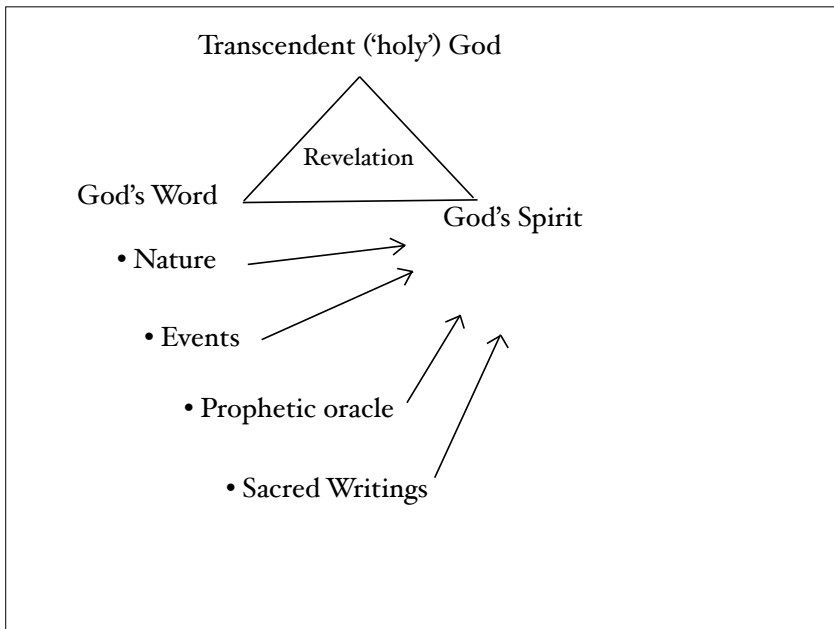
16



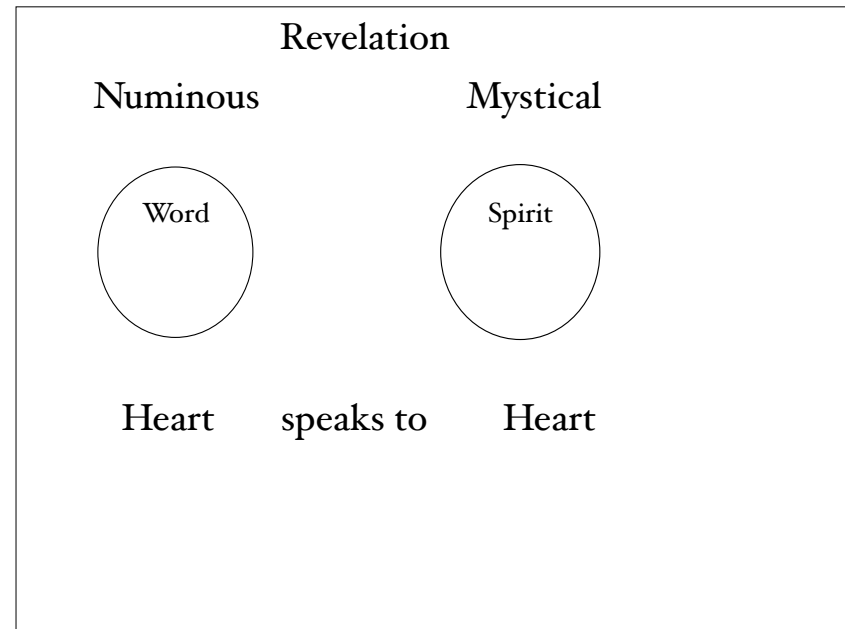
17



18



19



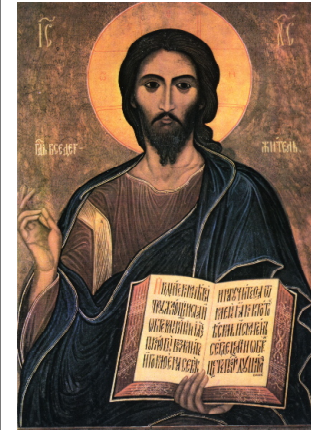
20



Matthew 11:28-29

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’

21

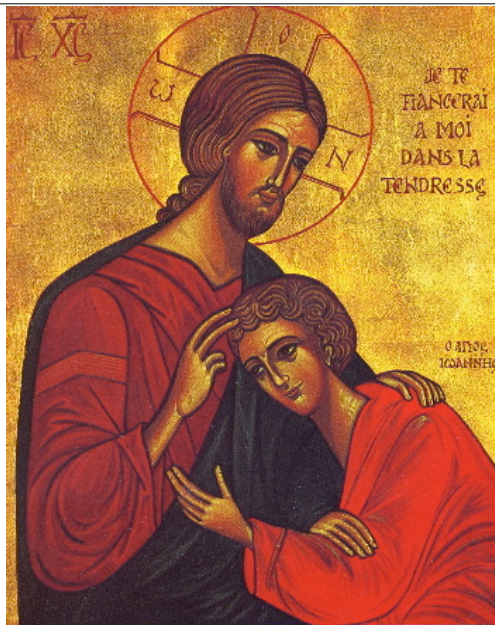


1John 1:1-3

We declare to you what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life —

this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you may have communion with us; and truly our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

22



Romans 5:5

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.’

23

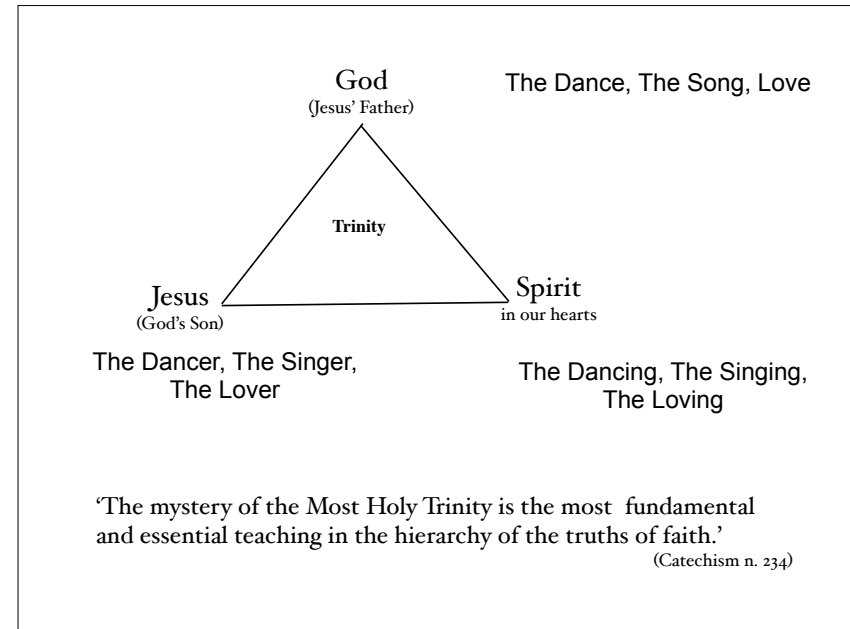


- ‘I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you’ (John 14:20).
- ‘I pray that they will be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me’ (John 17:21).
- ‘I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already’ (Luke 12:49).

24



25



26

Jesus is looking to his Father

The Father is looking towards the Spirit



The Spirit is looking at the Eucharistic gifts on the table.

The one looking at the icon is invited to join them at the table.

27



28

Teilhard de Chardin SJ (1881-1955)

'The evolution of chastity' 1934

'Some day,
after harnessing space,
the winds,
the tides
and gravitation,

We shall harness for God
the energies of Love.

And then,
for the second time in the history of the world,
we shall have discovered fire.'

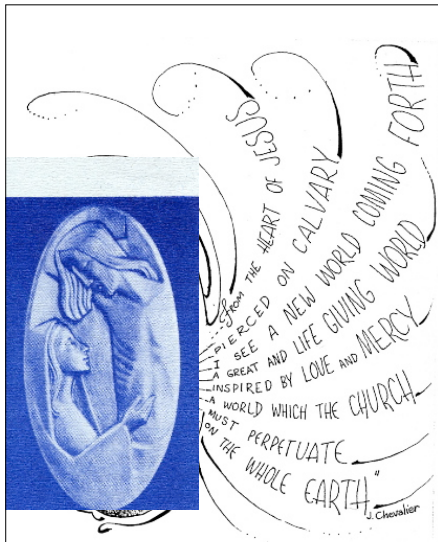
29

'You have made us for yourself, O God,
and our hearts are restless till they rest in you'(Augustine Confessions I.1).

Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10.

'The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching
must be directed to the love that never ends.
Whether something is proposed for belief,
for hope or for action,
the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,
so that anyone can see
that all the works of perfect Christian virtue
spring from love
and have no other objective
than to arrive at love.'

30



'From the Heart of
Jesus pierced on
Calvary, I see a new
world coming forth –
a great and life-giving
world, inspired by
love and mercy: a
world which the
Church must
perpetuate on the
whole earth.'

(Sacred Heart 1900)

31

'Jesus went up on the mountain,
and called to him those he desired;

and they came to him.

And he appointed twelve,

to be with him,

and to be sent out'(Mark 3:13-14)

'Looking on him who was pierced,
we see the new Heart
that God has given us,
an inexhaustible source of life ...

We want to proclaim his love
to the world'(MSC Constitutions 9-10)

32