

Lesson 3: How does Aquinas disagree with Augustine?

Last week we looked at the theologian **Augustine** and this week we are looking at a different theologian called **Thomas Aquinas**. They have very similar surnames so be sure not to get them mixed up!



Why does Aquinas disagree with Augustine's idea of how conscience works?

Aquinas argues that

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Aquinas argued that God made human beings with an in-built sense of right and wrong.

There's a lot of disagreement about this but Aquinas believed even babies had some kind of sense of what is right and what is wrong.

Do you agree?

But Aquinas didn't think it was as simple as just listening to that sense of right and wrong.

He said we needed to use our **reason** (thinking) to be able to properly work out what our conscience was saying.

He thought it was really important to practice and sharpen your reason by learning about the world around us and by **reading the Bible**.


Aquinas' view of how conscience works



God is perfectly good and gave us an in-built sense of right and wrong

People must listen to our conscience and read the Bible and use our reason to work out what is right

Then people can make the right moral choices

 We have to decide whether we should share our birthday cake equally or whether we should eat most of it ourselves. How would Aquinas say we could help make this **moral decision**.

Use the word **conscience** in your answer

I think Aquinas would say

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