

Knowledge & Religion

“I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use.” - Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

TOK L25



Key Questions

- Theistic vs. Non-Theistic
- The idea of Revelation and Sacred Texts
- Hermeneutics

Thomas Aquinas: *The Five Ways to God* (see handout)



There are many ways in which science can help in the development of religious knowledge. Can you think of ways in which religion might help in the development of scientific knowledge?

Can't we all just get along? (And should we?)

- **Ecumenism:** promoting unity among the world's Christian churches
 - **Denomination:** a distinct religious group within Christianity
 - **Fundamentalism:** a belief in the absolute authority of a particular sacred text, religious leader and/or God
- *To what extent do these viewpoints contribute to or detract from the cause of advancing religious belief among the people of the world?*

For discussion: *Is the practice of religion by necessity a public or private affair? What are the implications of each perspective?*



- Creationism vs Evolution
- Inerrancy
- Homosexuality
- The Role of Women in the Church
- Worship Styles
- Politics
- Others?

FOR FUN AND EDIFICATION:

Christian Controversies

Using the TOK perspectives we have studied this year, identify the **knowledge issues** that bear upon these controversies.