

1. FAS says that, "Man made himself increasingly independent and autonomous, and with this came an increasing loss of anything which gave meaning, either to the individual things in the world or to man." (p 72, para 1), and also, "All meaning to all individual things, or all particulars was removed. Things were being viewed as autonomous, and there was nothing to which to relate them or to give them meaning." (P 74, para 1)

- Following this path ultimately leads to what?

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- How does FAS describe the marriage of Dante and his wife?

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- Where does Beatrice fit into this equation?

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- Sensual love separated from spiritual love leads to what?

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- Explain what FAS means by the following statements:

- The wife was a dray horse

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- The idealized woman was a disembodied phantom

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- Read Mark 6:14-28 and draw correlations between this passage of Scripture and the realities of Renaissance thought and culture, as well as our current culture.

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2. FAS says that Michelangelo is making a statement with his statue of David and his statues of men tearing themselves out of the rock.

- What statement could he be making?

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- What evidence is there that Michelangelo perhaps saw the ultimate emptiness of humanism later in his life?

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3. Leonardo da Vinci is said to have anticipated where humanism would lead, and therefore grasped the problem facing modern man. "He understood that man, beginning from himself, would never be able to come to meaning...and thus one ends only with mechanics." FAS says that da Vinci realized this path would be the end of everything, including man, is the machine.

- If man operates as a machine, rather than a human being created in the image of God, describe the personal and social effects that can be expected.

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- FAS states that the Renaissance humanism had a deep love for the ancient writings of the Greek and Roman age, and their humanism specifically avoided the Christian writings that were also from this time period. "Thus Renaissance humanism steadily evolved toward modern humanism – a value system rooted in the belief that man is his own measure, that man is autonomous, totally independent." (pages 63-64) Read Romans 1:18-32 and comment on why this passage of Scripture would have been excluded from Renaissance culture.

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- Based on the way their lives ended, what lessons should we learn from John the Baptist and Paul? What principle does this confirm from our study of Ancient Rome in ch 1?

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