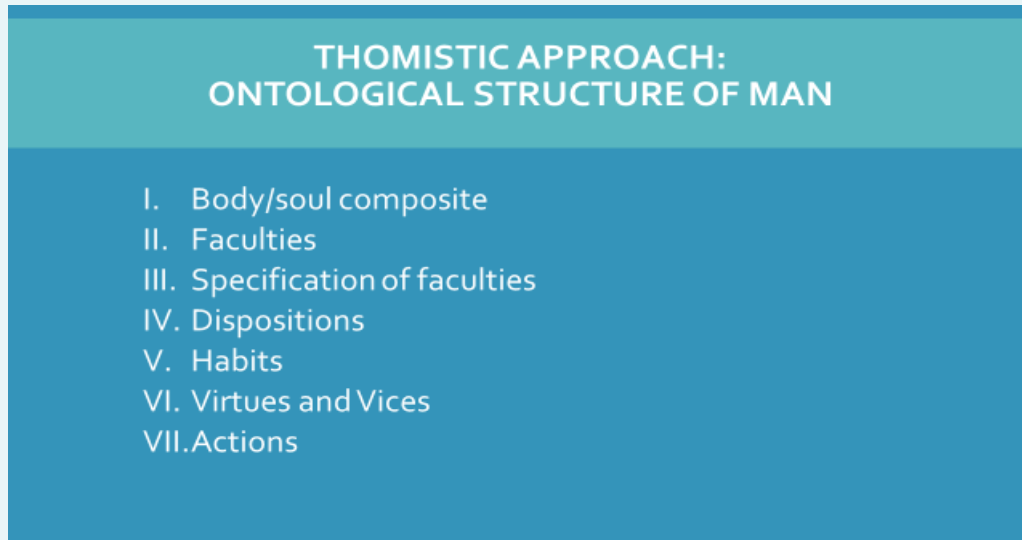


THOMISTIC COUNSELING  
COURSE 1: THOMISTIC PERSPECTIVES – THE NATURE OF MAN  
CLASS 2: THE ONTOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF MAN

## Class Outline



### **I. The body/soul composite**

- A. Body – material element (individuates a person)
- B. Soul-first principle of life in those things that live among us--has own existence.
  - 1. The soul makes us animated – alive
  - 2. The soul lives in and through the body
  - 3. Soul is substantial part of the body

### **II. Faculties – Faculties make living things different. Man acts through the faculties. Faculties are the way the soul acts within us.**

- A. Two types of faculties:
  - 1. Material - resides in the body/soul composite & occurs through a bodily organ
  - 2. Immaterial - resides in the soul and acts independently of the body (agent Intellect, possible intellect, will)
- B. Five genera (categories) of faculties, we are concerned with first three:
  - 1 Appetitive
  - 2 Sensitive
  - 3 Intellective
  - 4 Vegetative
  - 5 Locomotive

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**III. Specification of faculties**

- A. Faculties are ordered to and specified by their proper objects (they are distinguished by their respective objects):
  - 1. Intellect – ordered to truth
  - 2. Will – ordered to the good
  - 3. Appetites and passions - ordered to or inclined to a particular object

**IV. Disposition**

- A. The readiness of something for certain activities, the way we are inclined.
- B. While every faculty has an object, the faculty may relate to its object well or not.
- C. When a faculty is disposed well, it acts well and with facility. It readily undergoes the action proper to it.
- D. If it is disposed poorly the action is difficult to perform. If the faculty is disposed poorly, the action is difficult and painful.
- E. Dispositions becomes habituated.

**V. Habits**

- A. A habit is a quality which inclines the faculty toward a specific action; a firm disposition.
- B. Developing a habit requires a series of actions. Man can increase or decrease the inclination of some of his faculties by the actions he performs.
- C. When a disposition or quality is increased or decreased by action, it is called a habit.
- D. If the action is of the same form as the habit, the habit increases.
- E. If the action is contrary to the form of the habit, the habit is decreased or corrupted.

**VI. Virtues and vices**

- A. Habits are distinguished between virtues and vices.
- B. A good habit is a virtue and is one which disposed the faculty toward a good action in relation to the faculty's proper object.
- C. A bad habit is a vice and disposes the faculty toward a bad action in relation to its proper object.
- D. There are physical, intellectual and moral vices and virtues that correspond to the physical, intellectual and appetitive faculties.

**VII. Actions**

- A. Every faculty performs or undergoes some kind of action.
- B. The faculties are designed to perform some kinds of actions in relation to certain objects (action is specified by the object).
- C. Examples: sight is designed to see visible objects, hearing is designed to hear sound
- D. The action can be done well or poorly based on the disposition and or habit (virtue or vice).

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Notes

*Introduction to the Science of Mental Health*, Chapter 2: Ontological Structure of Man and His Acts, pp 14-18

Diagram: Ontological Structure of Man, p. 799 Ripperger, Fr. Chad. *Introduction to the Science of Mental Health*. Sensus Traditionis Press, 2013

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