

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY IN GENERAL

1. The love of wisdom. A very broad significance, since wisdom very inclusive.
2. From Will Durant's The Story of Philosophy (pp.2,3):

"...philosophy accepts the hard and hazardous task of dealing with problems not yet open to the methods of science -- problems like good and evil, beauty and ugliness, order and freedom, life and death; so soon as a field of inquiry yields knowledge susceptible of exact formulation it is called science. Every science begins as philosophy and ends as art; it arises in hypothesis and flows into achievement. Philosophy is a hypothetical interpretation of the unknown (as in metaphysics), or of the inexactly known (as in ethics or political philosophy); it is the front trench in the siege of truth. Science is the captured territory; and behind it are those secure regions where in which knowledge and art build our imperfect and marvelous world. Philosophy seems to stand still, perplexed; but only because she leaves the fruits of victory to her daughters the sciences, and herself passes on, divinely discontent, to the uncertain and the unexplored.

Shall we be more technical? Science is analytical description, philosophy is synthetic interpretation. Science wishes to resolve the whole into parts, the organism into organs, the obscure into the known. It does not inquire into the values and ideal possibilities of things, nor into their total and final significance...The scientist is as impartial as Nature...he is as interested in the leg of a flea as in the creative throes of a genius. But the philosopher is not content to describe the fact; he wishes to ascertain its relation to experience in general, and thereby to get at its meaning and its worth.... Science without philosophy, facts without perspective and valuation, cannot save us from havoc and despair. Science gives us knowledge, but only philosophy can give us wisdom."

### 3. Philosophy consists of five branches:

- A) LOGIC: the study of the ideal method in thought and research: observation, deduction and induction, hypothesis and experiment...
- B) ESTHETICS: the study of ideal form, or beauty. The philosophy of art
- C) ETHICS: the study of ideal conduct
- D) POLITICS: the study of ideal social organization
- E) METAPHYSICS: the study of the "ultimate reality" of things: the real and final nature of matter or being (ontology), of mind (philosophical psychology) and the interrelation of mind and matter in the process of perception and knowledge, i.e. learning (epistemology)

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

is the attempt to discover and elaborate the fundamental world-view which informs the regimen imposed by religion; the conceptual basis of the preceptual life.  
Jou Foote Moore: "the difference between religion and philosophy is that religion does something about it."