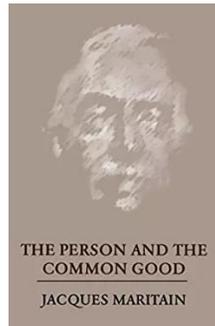


## Common Good: 8 - Man, the state, the common good, and God



This is an excellent resource (only 105 pages) on the nature of man, his relationship with the state/society, and the common good, which avoids the evil of materialism inherent in individualism, totalitarianism, and communism.

After Jacques Maritain discusses the first movement that describes the interrelationships between man, society, and the common good, he writes,

*"The second movement is, so to speak, a vertical movement of the life of the persons themselves in the midst of social life. It arises out of the different in altitude between the level where the person has the center of its life as a person where it is constituted as a part of a social community. Because of this difference in level, the person demands society and always tends to go beyond it, "until, at last, it enters into a society of pure persons, that is, into the society of Divine Persons, which overwhelms it with the gift of infinitely more than that to which it could of its own nature properly aspire. From the family group (which is more fundamental than the State because it touches upon the generic difference of the human beings) man passes into civil society (which touches upon the specific difference) where he feels the need of clubs and fellowships that will interest his intellectual and moral life. These he enters of his own free choice; they assist the soul in its efforts to ascend to a higher level. In the end these also fail to satisfy—the soul is cramped and force to go beyond them. Above the level of civil society, man crosses the threshold of supernatural reality and enters into society that is the mystical body of an incarnate God—a society, the proper office of which is to lead him to his spiritual perfection and his full liberty of autonomy, to his eternal welfare," (79-80).*

In Christ,  
Pastor Don