



Lesson 3: Christian View of Law

LAW



Beginning work: (copy the below quote into your notes)

- No society can exist unless the laws are respected to a certain degree. The safest way to make laws respected is to make them respectable. When law and morality contradict each other; the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing the moral sense or losing his respect for the law. The two evils are of equal consequence, and it would be difficult for a person to choose between them. The nature of the law is to maintain justice.

Beginning work: (copy the below quote into your notes)

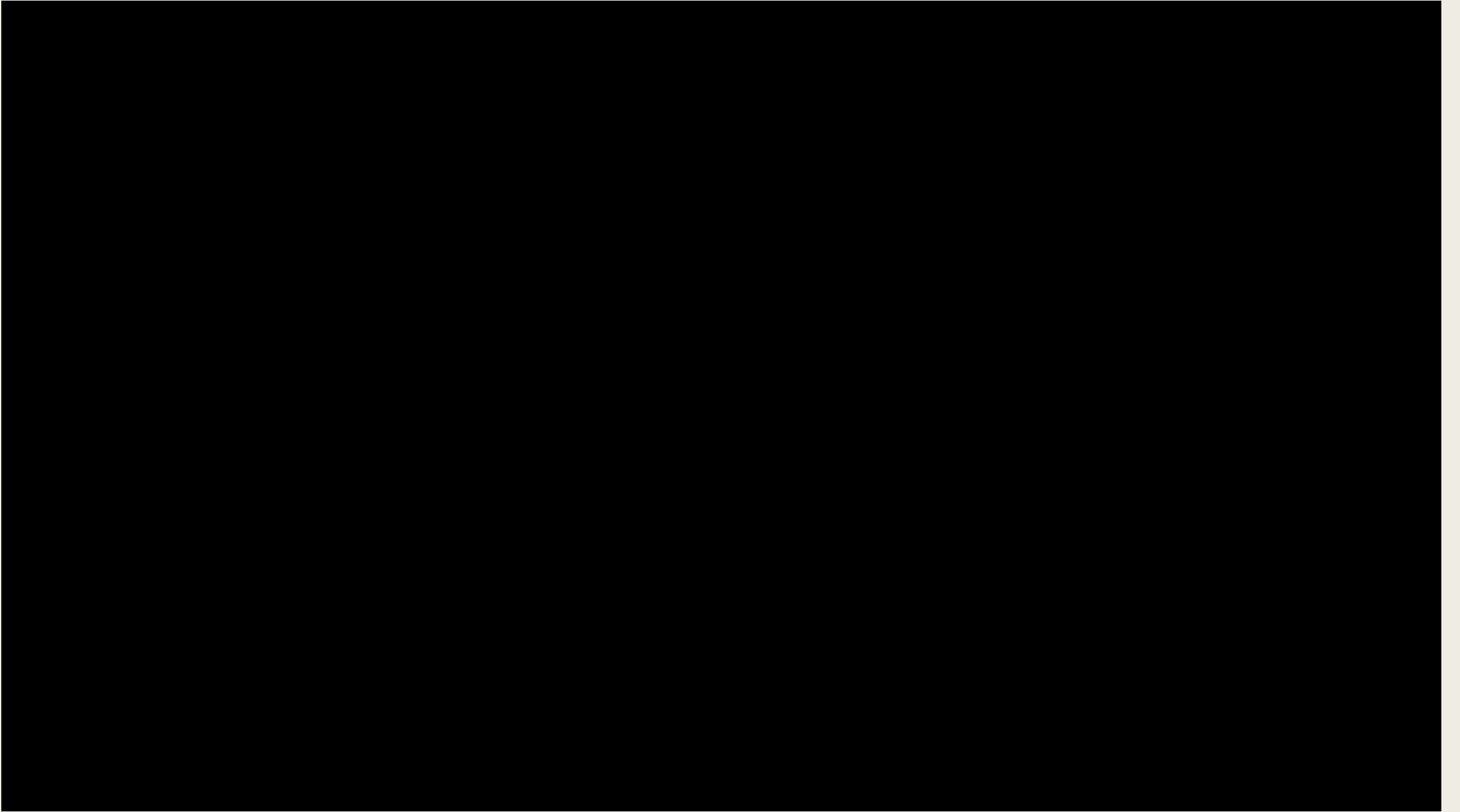
- This is so much the case that, in the minds of the people, law and justice are one and the same thing. There is in all of us a strong disposition to believe that anything lawful is also legitimate. This belief is so widespread that many persons have erroneously held that things are “just” because the law makes them so. -Frederic Bastiat “The Law” 1850

An understanding of natural law

- Might is not right
- Majorities can be tyrannical and unjust
- Principles of justice and natural rights enable us to evaluate justice or injustice
- Justice is universal and unchanging, always the same everywhere and at all times

An understanding of Natural Law

- Positive law is obeyed because of force and fear of punishment
- Natural law is obeyed by virtue of authority that comes with recognizing just conduct
- Acts are wrong in themselves whether or not they are prohibited by positive, man-made laws





Nuremberg Trials

- One great lesson the world learns from the trials is that positive law cannot provide the logical or moral basis for the protection of human rights.

Christianity and natural law

- Christians believe that God gave us divine laws and the means of discovering them.
- Only a perfect Creator has the right to impose law upon His creation