Name: Date:
Period:

The Platonic Tradition

From: Diogenes Allen and Eric O. Springstead, *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, WJK, 2009. pp.39-45.

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1. Briefly explain Plato's belief that the only way a person can truly be harmed is by harming themselves. Similarly, he also believed that a just person could never truly harm anyone else. What did he mean by this?

2. Explain briefly the basic tenets of Cynic philosophy. Include an explanation of *ascesis*, *apatheia* and *tyche*. In what sense can Cynicism be seen as inheriting the Platonic tradition? From what did the name 'cynic' originate, and why was it considered an appropriate name for this philosophy?

3. Briefly explain the basic tenets of Stoic philosophy. What does Stoic philosophy have in common with Cynicism, and how is it different? How was Stoicism influenced by Platonism, particularly Plato's *Timaeus*?

4. Allen states that the Stoics "emphasize a point virtually ignored by Plato." What is that point, and how and why is it emphasized in Stoic philosophy? Why did Plato "ignore" it?

5. How does the Stoic view of providence compare and contrast with the Biblical view? How was early Christian thought able to embrace and even absorb the Stoic view?

6. Briefly describe the significance of the following people:

    a. Diogenes of Sinope

    b. Epictetus

    c. Zeno of Citium

    d. Cicero