

MORAL CONSCIENCE : THE PROPERTY OF RELIGION?

During the Middle Ages the Christian churches had the control over all possible studies. In the 17th century it grudgingly let scientists investigate matter but kept the soul and all spiritual matters for itself. Nowadays the Catholic Church sees no objection to the scientist' studying the consciousness, particularly if he is a dualist. But it won't tolerate the scientific attack on moral consciousness. Thus Pope Paul VI addressed the conference on "Brain and Conscious Experience" convened by Sir John Eccles in the Pontificia Academia Scientiarum in 1964: "To be sure, when you speak of 'consciousness', you do not refer to the moral conscience: the very rigor of your methods ensures that you do not leave that strictly scientific domain which belongs

to you. " (Address by Pope Paul VI, in John C. Eccles, Ed.,
Brain and Conscious Experience (Berlin-Heidelberg-N.Y.:
Springer-Verlag, 1964).

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