

### **Reading Questions: Augustine II, *City of God***

1. What dichotomy is at the heart of Augustine's argument?
2. What causes an evil will? To what does Augustine compare the task of trying to understand the causes of evil? What does this comparison imply?
3. How does God try to guarantee the "unity in plurality" of the human race according to Augustine?
4. What is the origin of death according to Augustine?
5. How did the first sin affect human nature, if at all? What was its effect on the body?
6. What does it mean to live by the standard/rule of the flesh/man? Does it mean only pursuing sensual or bodily pleasures? What does it mean to live by the standard/rule of the spirit/God?
7. Are all sins caused by the weakness of the body? Why or why not? What is the fountain-head of sin?
8. What is at the start of the evil will? What does an evil will 'turn towards' instead of God?
9. How would reproduction have been different without the introduction of sin?
10. What is the proper purpose of earthly goods? To what end are we supposed to put them?
11. Why does Augustine think that the Supreme Good is not found in this life?
12. What is the aim of the earthly kingdom according to Augustine?
13. What are the two conceptions of commonwealth discussed by Augustine? Why does he reject the conception of Scipio/Cicero?
14. What metaphor does Augustine use throughout the text to express how Christians should experience their lives on earth?