Reflection Prompts for Week 9

Monday Reading

Read Book V of the Republic and reflect on either of the following:

• Present and critique Plato’s argument that women should be allowed to serve as guardians (philosopher-kings) in the Republic
• Present one of the strangest aspects of Plato’s views on marriages, child-bearing or child-rearing. Try to restate Plato’s or anyone’s possible defense of these practices. Then defend your own view.

Wednesday Reading

Read C. Gilligan’s excerpt from In a Different Voice, available on line. Reflect on either of the following

• What is one piece of evidence that Gilligan cites to show that there is a history of gender bias in theories of psychological and moral development? What is one observed difference that Gilligan reports between male and female conceptions of self or how they resolve moral conflict? Does Gilligan claim that because of these differences, women are less rational or less competent at resolving moral conflict?
• Explain some of the gender differences that Gilligan reports between male and female conceptions of self and how males and females tend to resolve moral conflict. If Plato was aware of these gender differences, would it change his position on the role of women as guardians? Explain and defend your answer

Friday Reading

Read the Boyd and Eddy chapter on “The Women in Ministry Debate” and reflect on the following:

• In the debate over women in ministry, what is and is not the issue? What is the complementarian position on this issue? What is the Egalitarian position? Which of the two positions do you find to be most strongly supported? Defend your answer.