

Pastors,

Thank you for sharing RC Sproul's book—I appreciate the vocabulary lesson. I'd be happy to receive any additional booklets if available. I wouldn't want them collecting dust on the shelf!

I gained a deeper understanding of terms like *reformation* and *sanctification*, as well as the life of the monk. His influence on how the Bible is interpreted today is notable. He deserves praise.

I couldn't help but wonder if it was purely coincidence that those two words and the monk were mentioned in our meeting, only for a book to then be gifted on the same themes.

I was moved by the story of Aripotle and how the author connects his stone statue-building process to the concept of the instrumental cause—the journey of striving toward righteousness. It reminded me of the book I created from my own experiences and how it brought me closer to God.

Aristotle's Statue

I've been reflecting deeply on insights shared in the book by RC Sproul, particularly his discussion of causality, and I couldn't help but draw parallels to my own journey of creation and faith. The explanation of the four causes has illuminated a profound truth in my heart, one that has deepened my love for God and shaped my understanding of His work in my life.

He begins with the efficient cause—the force that brings about an effect. A block of stone does not become a statue by itself; it requires a sculptor, someone to transform the raw material into something purposeful. In my recent project, my book was like that block of stone,

and I, in many ways, became the sculptor. The experiences I've endured, the questions I've asked, and the emotions I've channeled were the tools that God placed in my hands to shape this creation.

Then, he speaks of the formal cause—the blueprint or idea that guides the artist's vision. In my case, the design of my book was not merely a product of my mind but a response to something greater. It was guided by the yearning in my heart for truth, love, and understanding, all of which I believe were planted there by God Himself. Just as the sculptor envisions the final form of the statue, I was guided by a divine purpose that I could not yet fully comprehend.

The instrumental cause—the tools by which the transformation is achieved—was reflected in the letters I wrote, the designs I sketched, and the thoughts I wrestled with. These tools were not just physical or intellectual; they were spiritual as well. Each step of the process was like the chisel in the sculptor's hand, shaping not just the book but also my own heart in the process.

Finally, he speaks of the final cause—the purpose for which the creation is made. My book was born out of an experience at the church, one that I am now convinced wasn't the right course of action. And yet, through that painful realization, God's grace has been poured into my soul, infusing it with purpose and a profound love for Him. Though I have not yet been baptized, I feel as though this journey of creation has been a baptism of sorts—a transformative act that has brought me closer to Christ.

Just as the Council of Trent declared that the instrumental cause of justification is baptism, I see parallels in the way this creative process has become an instrument of grace in my life. It was through the chiseling away of doubt, fear, and misunderstanding that God revealed His love to me in ways I had never imagined.

In creating this book, I did not simply produce a work of art or literature; I embarked on a journey of faith. I now see that every stroke of the pen, every question asked, and every word written was part of God's greater plan—a plan to draw me closer to Him and to infuse my soul with His presence.

Thank you for sharing RC Sproul's wisdom, as it has deepened my understanding of this experience and revealed the divine artistry at work in my life. I pray that I may continue to be molded by God's hands, becoming ever more a reflection of His love and purpose.

**In His Spirit,
Mr. Tran**