

## Transparency 1 Key Ideas of Plato

“And wise men tell us . . . that heaven and earth and gods and men are held together by communion and friendship, by orderliness, temperance, and justice. . . .”

–Plato, *Gorgias*

### Key Ideas of Plato

- Reason, not the experience of the senses, leads to genuine knowledge.
- Through rational thought, people can discover unchanging ethical principles, recognize perfect beauty, and learn how to best organize society.
- The state should regulate every aspect of its citizens' lives in order to best provide for their interests.
- Ideal society is divided into three classes: workers to produce necessities of life, soldiers to defend the state, and specially trained philosophers to rule.
- Ideal society is divided based on a process of examination, rather than birth or wealth.