

Definitions for the words found in Chapters 23 and 24

Eternal Law: refers to the wisdom of God that orders all things.

Natural Law: our created moral sense that discerns, by way of reason, good from evil... and truth from lie.

Mortal Sin: When we consciously and freely choose to do something grave against God's divine law and contrary to our final destiny. Conditions for Mortal Sin are: a grave matter, with full knowledge, and is deliberate.

Venial Sin: An offense against God in a less serious matter. Lie, Gossip, etc.

Moral Determinant: The process used to differentiate that which is an acceptable from an unacceptable moral act.

The process consists of asking ourselves **3** questions about something we are contemplating doing.

1. **what we are doing**, (what we are doing must be objectively good). killing, torture is never good) **Objective:**
 2. **why are we doing it**, (our goal, end result, or intentions that are within the person, must be good.) **Subjective:**
 3. **where, how, with whom are we doing it**. (situations contribute to goodness or badness of the act.) **Circumstances:**
- All three of these moral determinants must prove good or true... for an act to be morally good.

Conscience: Man's moral instinct... our morality detector. Some call it a Moral Compass.

Conscience provides insight for guiding and determining the moral choices we make. Our Conscience does three things:

1. give us a sense of what is good and what is evil,
2. gives us a desire to do good and an aversion to doing what is evil,
3. gives us a feeling of joy and peace and rightness... at having done something good, and an uneasiness when we do something that is **not** good. A good Conscience requires a lifelong formation.

Virtues deal with our attitude towards other persons and things. Virtues place a marks on the soul, that is deeper and more permanent than any external deeds we may do. Virtues are categorized as either Cardinal and Theological .

Cardinal Virtues are:

Prudence.. to give the mind practical reasons in thinking about what should be done.

Justice... to give what is **due** or what is right or deserved.

Fortitude...to give firmness in difficult situations... and constancy in the pursuit of good.

Temperance.. to moderate the attractiveness of pleasures, and moderate the fear of pain.

Theological Virtues: are virtues bestowed upon the soul directly by God. These are Faith, Hope, and Love.

Grace: The help God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted sons and daughters.

Sanctifying Grace: a stable state of holiness and gift of God whereby we live with God and act by his love.

Actual Grace: God's particular intervention in our lives to aid us in our purification from sin.

Sacramental Grace: Given in the Celebrations of Sacraments

Special Grace: Given to individuals and meant for the common good of the church.

Commandments: Laws guiding human actions given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai.

Old Testament: First part of the Bible containing Pentateuch, Historical books, Wisdom, Prophetic. Is God inspired.

New Testament: Designation as the second part of the Bible. Contains Gospels, Acts of Apostles, Letters, Rev.

Beatitudes: Eight Beatitudes are part of Jesus's teaching. The set forth fundamental virtues for His faithful disciples.

Holy Spirit: Third person of the Trinity who builds up, animates, and sanctifies the church and her members.

Sacraments: An efficacious sign of grace instituted by Christ, entrusted to the church to dispense divine life via Holy Spirit.

Church Traditions: The living transmission of the Gospel message to the church flowing from the Oral Preaching of the apostles and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is preserved and handed on as the Deposit of Faith under the guidance of the bishops, successors to the Apostles.

Church Teachings: (Magisterium) The teaching office of the Pope, and bishops in communion with him, and guided by the Holy Spirit. The Pope and bishops are the authoritative teachers in the Church.

Instructions on Forming One's Conscience.

So, here are some final instructions that may help with the **many** moral decisions you will have to make:

First, Catholics base their judgments of **conscience** upon a solid foundation of **moral principles**. It is a Catholic's duty to understand the moral **truths** of the Catholic faith.

Second, be sensitive to all the significant features of one's situation, you must apply moral determinants, so as to form **reasonable** judgments of conscience. You have a list of them in the **text** and **handout**.

Third, the Catholic, knowing that the mind of Christ on moral matters as expressed by the Church, will **continue** to learn, accept, and live what that body teaches through the authority of the **Magisterium**. (Pope, Bishops, guided by the Holy Spirit, approved publications)

Fourth, God's revelation in Scripture and Christian tradition as interpreted by the Church, the examples of the saints as embodiments of the Church's teaching, as well as the natural law. Knowing the moral guidelines, and **knowing...** that a **Catholic...** has an obligation and a duty... to follow one's conscience... we have a **responsibility** to properly **inform** and **form** our conscience.

It **is** necessary to properly **form** our conscience **because**, our Conscience is **not** infallible.