

Introduction to Christian Morality

*The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth,
Third Edition*

Chapter 23

Morality

- The goodness or evil of human acts
- God's gift of free will means we have the ability to make choices.
- Scripture and Tradition can guide us to live as God wants us to live.



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The Foundation of Morality

- We are made in the image of God.

Genesis 1:27

God created mankind in his image;
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

- When we choose the good, we act in accordance with our nature.
- Happiness is not normally determined by what we see on social media, TV, or in the movies.



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What causes Happiness?

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

6 Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Original Sin



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- We have free will to make our own choices.
- Adam and Eve misused that gift and went against God's plan.
- Their decision left us with a tendency to choose evil.

Conscience

- We use reason to distinguish right from wrong.
- Our interior voice helps us to know right from wrong and then act on that knowledge.
- Moral development never stops.



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Sin

- The choice to do wrong instead of good
- Sin hurts our relationship with ourselves, with others, and with God.
- Mortal sin and venial sin
 - Mortal sin – a serious offense against God
 - Venial sin – less serious than mortal sins because they do not destroy our relationship with God.
- Sin of Omission occurs when we fail to do something required by God's moral law.



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The Seven Deadly Sins

- **Pride:** The inordinate love of self — a super-confidence and high esteem in your own abilities also known as *vanity*. Pride fools you into thinking that you're the source of your own greatness.
- **Avarice (Greed):** The inordinate love of and desire for earthly possessions.
- **Envy:** Resenting another person's good fortune or joy; who have more money, talent, strength, beauty, friends, and so on, than you do. Also, resenting others who progress in holiness, preferring that they stay at or below your level instead of being joyful and happy that they're doing what they're supposed to be doing.
- **Lust:** Looking at, imagining, and treating others as mere sex objects to serve your own physical pleasures, rather than as individuals made in the image and likeness of God.
- **Wrath (Anger):** The sudden outburst of emotion — namely hostility — and thoughts about the desire for revenge. You have no control over what angers you, but you do have control over what you do after you become angry.
- **Gluttony:** Choosing to over-consume food or alcohol.
- **Sloth:** is laziness — particularly when it concerns prayer and spiritual life. Sloth is always wanting to rest and relax, with no desire or intention of making a sacrifice or doing something for others. It's an aversion to work — physical, mental, and spiritual.

