

INTRODUCTION TO MORALITY

(The information on this outline can be found in paragraphs 1691-2557 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

SECTION ONE: MAN'S VOCATION: LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

I. The Dignity of the Human Person (CCC 1700-1869)

- A. Man: The Image of God (CCC 1701-1715)
- B. Our Vocation to Beatitude (CCC 1716-1729)
 - 1. The Beatitudes
 - 2. The Desire for Happiness
 - 3. Christian Beatitude
- C. Man's Freedom (CCC 1730-1748)
 - 1. Freedom and Responsibility
 - 2. Human Freedom in the Economy of Salvation
- D. The Morality of Human Acts (CCC 1749-1761)
 - 1. The Sources of Morality
 - 2. Good Acts and Evil Acts
- E. The Morality of the Passions (CCC 1762-1775)
 - 1. Passions
 - 2. Passions and Moral Life
- F. Moral Conscience (CCC 1776-1802)
 - 1. The Judgment of Conscience
 - 2. The Formation of Conscience
 - 3. To Choose in Accord with Conscience
 - 4. Erroneous Judgment
- G. The Virtues (CCC 1803-1845)
 - 1. The Human Virtues
 - 2. The Theological Virtues
 - 3. The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- H. Sin (CCC 1846-1876)
 - 1. Mercy and Sin
 - 2. The Definition of Sin
 - 3. The Different Kinds of Sins
 - a. Commission vs. omission
 - 4. The Gravity of Sin: Mortal and Venial Sin
 - a. For a sin to be mortal, there are three requirements:
 - i. That it be grave matter
 - ii. That the person has full knowledge it is grave matter
 - iii. That the person freely consent to it
 - 5. The Proliferation of Sin

II. The Human Community (CCC 1877-1942)

- A. The Person and Society (CCC 1878-1896)
 - 1. The Communal Character of the Human Vocation

2. Conversion and Society
- B. Participation in Social Life (CCC 1897-1927)
 1. Authority
 2. The Common Good
 3. Responsibility and Participation
- C. Social Justice (CCC 1928-1948)
 1. Respect for the Human Person
 2. Equality and Differences Among Men
 3. Human Solidarity

III. **God's Salvation: Law and Grace (CCC 1949-2046)**

- A. The Moral Law (CCC 1950-1986)
 1. The Natural Moral Law
 2. The Old Law
 3. The New Law or the Law of the Gospel
- B. Grace and Justification (CCC 1987-2029)
 1. Justification
 2. Grace
 - a. Sanctifying or deifying grace
 - b. Actual grace
 - c. Sacramental graces
 - d. Charisms
 - e. Graces of state
 3. Merit
 4. Christian Holiness
- C. The Church, Mother and Teacher (CCC 2030-2051)
 1. Moral Life and the Magisterium of the Church
 2. The Precepts of the Church
 3. Moral Life and Missionary Witness

SECTION TWO: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

IV. **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (CCC 2083-2188)**

- A. The first commandment: I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange gods before Me (CCC 2084-2141)
 1. “You shall worship the Lord Your God and Him only shall you serve.”
 - a. Faith
 - i. Believe in God and bear witness to Him
 - ii. Sins against faith - voluntary doubt, incredulity
 - b. Hope
 - i. The confident expectation of divine blessing and the beatific vision of God
 - ii. Sins against hope – despair & presumption
 - c. Charity

- i. Sins against charity – indifference, ingratitude, lukewarmness, acedia, hatred of God
 - 2. “Him only shall you serve”
 - a. Adoration
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Sacrifice
 - d. Keep promises and vows that Christians are called to make
 - e. The social duty of religion and the right to religious freedom
 - 3. “You shall have no other gods before Me”
 - a. Superstition
 - b. Idolatry
 - c. Divination and magic
 - d. Irreligion
 - e. Atheism
 - f. Agnosticism
 - 4. “You shall not make for yourself a graven image...”
 - a. God is greater than all his works
 - b. Church condemns iconoclasm
 - c. “Respectful veneration” of sacred images
- B. The second Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. (CCC 2142-2167)
- 1. The name of the Lord is holy
 - 2. Sense of the sacred
 - 3. Blasphemy
 - 4. Oaths
 - 5. Forbids the “magical use” of God’s name
 - 6. False oaths
 - 7. Perjury
 - 8. The Christian name
- C. The third commandment: Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day. (CCC 2168-2195)
- 1. The Sabbath Day
 - 2. The Lord’s Day
 - a. The day of Resurrection
 - b. Sunday-fulfillment of the Sabbath
 - c. The Sunday Eucharist
 - d. The Sunday obligation
 - e. Day of grace and rest from work

V. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (CCC 2196-2550)

- A. The fourth commandment: Honor your father and your mother. (CCC 2197-2257)
- 1. The family in God’s plan
 - a. The nature of the family
 - b. The Christian family
 - 2. The family and society
 - 3. The duties of family members

- a. The duties of children
 - b. The duties of parents
 - 4. The family and the kingdom
 - 5. The authorities in civil society
 - a. Duties of civil authorities
 - b. The duties of citizens
 - c. The political community and the Church
- B. The fifth commandment: You shall not kill. (CCC 2258-2330)
 - 1. Respect for human life
 - a. The witness of sacred history
 - b. Legitimate defense
 - c. Intentional homicide
 - d. Abortion
 - e. Euthanasia
 - f. Suicide
 - 2. Respect for the dignity of persons
 - a. Respect for the souls of others: scandal
 - b. Respect for health
 - c. Respect for the person and scientific research
 - d. Respect for bodily integrity
 - e. Respect for the dead
 - 3. Safeguarding peace
 - a. Peace
 - b. Avoiding war
- C. The sixth commandment: You shall not commit adultery. (CCC 2331-2400)
 - 1. "Male and Female He created them..."
 - 2. The vocation to chastity
 - a. The integrity of the person
 - i. Includes an apprenticeship in self-mastery
 - ii. Cardinal virtue of temperance
 - iii. A long and exacting work
 - iv. Laws of growth
 - v. Chastity also a cultural effort
 - vi. A moral virtue, a grace from God, and a fruit of spiritual effort.
 - b. The integrality of the gift of self
 - i. Form of all the virtues
 - ii. Gift of the person
 - iii. Virtue which blossoms in friendship
 - c. The various forms of chastity
 - i. All the baptized all called to chastity
 - ii. Chastity according to one's state in life
 - d. Offenses against chastity
 - i. Lust
 - ii. Masturbation
 - iii. Fornication

- iv. Pornography
- v. Prostitution
- vi. Rape
- vii. Homosexual practices
- e. Chastity and homosexuality
- 3. The love of husband and wife
 - a. Sexuality ordered to conjugal love of man and woman.
 - b. Two ends of spouses' union
 - i. Good of spouses themselves: unitive
 - ii. Transmission of life: procreative
 - c. Conjugal fidelity
 - d. The fecundity of marriage
 - i. Regulation of procreation
 - a. Spouses may space births for just reasons
 - b. The duty of the husband and wife "to make certain that their desire is not motivated by selfishness but in conformity with the generosity appropriate to responsible parenthood." (CCC 2368)
 - c. Methods of birth regulation must conform to objective criteria of morality- Natural Family Planning
 - d. Contraception and direct sterilization are morally unacceptable regardless of one's intention
 - e. "Every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end of as a means, to render procreation impossible" is intrinsically evil. (*Humanae vitae* 14; CCC 2370)
 - f. "Let all be convinced that human life and the duty of transmitting it are not limited by the horizons of this life only: their true evaluation and full significance can be understood only in reference to man's eternal destiny." (*Gaudium et spes* 51; CCC 2371)
 - e. The gift of a child
- 4. Offenses Against the Dignity of Marriage
 - a. Adultery
 - b. Divorce
 - c. Other Offenses Against the Dignity of Marriage
 - i. Polygamy
 - ii. Incest
 - iii. Pedophilia
 - iv. Ephebophilia
 - v. Cohabitation

D. The Seventh Commandment: You shall not steal. (CCC 2401-2463)

1. The Universal Destination and the Private Ownership of Goods
 - a. Right to private property
 - b. Universal destination of goods
 - c. Common good
2. Respect for Persons and their Goods
 - a. Respect for the goods of others
 - b. Respect for the integrity of creation
 - c. Solidarity
3. Respect for Goods of Others
 - a. Theft
 - b. Deliberate retention of goods lost and objects lent
 - c. Business fraud
 - d. Paying unjust wages
 - e. Forcing up prices by taking advantage of ignorance or hardship of another
 - f. Bribery
 - g. Work poorly done
 - h. Tax evasion
 - i. Forgery of checks and invoices
 - j. Excessive expenses and waste
 - k. Willfully damaging public or private property
 - l. Excessive gambling
 - m. Cheating
 - n. Acts or enterprises leading to enslavement of human beings
4. Types of justice
 - a. Commutative: need this for other forms of justice
 - b. Legal justice
 - c. Distributive justice
5. Respect for integrity of creation
 - a. Man's dominion over creation not absolute
 - b. Animals
 - i. God's creatures
 - ii. Man owes them kindness
 - iii. Entrusted to man's stewardship
 - iv. Can legitimately be used for food and clothing
 - v. May be domesticated
 - vi. Medical and scientific experimentation must remain within reasonable limits
6. The Social Doctrine of the Church
7. Economic activity and social justice
 - a. Ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and the entire human community
 - b. Work is a duty
 - c. Work honors the Creator
 - d. Work can be a means of sanctification
 - e. Work is for man, not man for work

- f. Everyone has right of economic initiative
 - g. Responsibilities of the state
 - i. Guarantees of individual freedom and private property
 - ii. Stable currency
 - iii. Efficient public services
 - iv. Overseeing of human rights
 - h. Those responsible for business enterprises
 - i. Must consider good of persons, not just making profit
 - ii. However, profits are necessary for future of business & to guarantee employment
 - iii. Must give access to employment w/out unjust discrimination
 - iv. Must provide a just wage – based on providing dignified livelihood for individuals & their families
 - i. Strikes
 - i. Legitimate when they cannot be avoided & when necessary to obtain proportionate benefit
 - ii. Unacceptable when accompanied by violence, when objectives are not directly linked to working conditions, or when opposed to the common good
8. Justice and solidarity among nations
- a. There is inequality of economic capability & resources between nations
 - b. Rich nations must help ensure development of poor nations
 - c. Ways wealthy nations can help poor nations:
 - i. Direct aid – particularly in natural disasters, epidemics, etc.
 - ii. Reform economic & international institutions
 - iii. Support poor countries working for growth, especially agriculturally
 - d. Increased sense of God and of self-awareness fundamental to full development of societies
 - i. This multiplies material goods & puts them at service of persons and of freedom
 - e. Role of laity to work for political structuring and organization of social life, not of the Pastors of the Church
 - i. Social action must have common good in view and be in conformity with the Gospel
9. Love for the poor
- a. God blesses those who aid the poor
 - b. Must help material, cultural, and religious poverty
 - c. Love for poor incompatible with immoderate love of riches or their selfish use
 - d. “Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs.”

- e. We are to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, thereby coming to the aid of our neighbors' bodies and souls.
- E. The Eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (CCC 2464-2513)
1. Living in the truth
 - a. God the Father is the source of all truth
 - b. In Jesus, the fullness of God's truth is made manifest
 - c. The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of truth"
 - d. Man tends to truth by nature
 - e. Man is morally bound to seek truth, especially in religious matters, and is bound to adhere to it once it is found
 - f. Must guard against duplicity, dissimulation, and hypocrisy
 - g. To live in conformity with the Lord's example is to live in the truth
 2. To bear witness to the truth
 - a. It is the duty of Christians to bear witness to the truth
 - b. Martyrs are supreme witnesses to the truth of the Faith
 3. Offenses against truth
 - a. False witness and perjury
 - b. Rash judgment
 - c. Detraction
 - d. Calumny
 - e. Flattery, adulation, or complaisance forbidden when it confirms another in malicious acts or perverse conduct
 - f. Boasting
 - g. Lying: gravity measured against the nature of the truth it deforms, the circumstances, and the intentions of the one lying, as well as the harm suffered by him who is lied to
 - h. Offenses against truth entail duty of reparation
 4. Respect for the truth
 - a. Right to communication of truth is not unconditional
 - b. Charity and respect for truth should dictate responses to requests for information. No one is bound to reveal truth to someone who does not have the right to know it.
 - c. Seal of the sacrament of reconciliation may never be violated
 - d. Professional secrets, e.g. those of soldiers, physicians, lawyers, politicians, or confidential information, given under seal of secrecy, must be kept except in exceptional cases, e.g. if it would cause grave harm to the one confiding it, to the one receiving it, or to a third party
 - e. Even if not under seal of secrecy, private information should not be divulged unless for a grave reason
 - f. One should observe appropriate reserve regarding peoples' private lives
 5. The use of the social communications media
 - a. Must be at service of common good
 - b. Must be based on truth, freedom, justice, solidarity

- c. People should use mass media moderately
 - d. Civil authorities are to safeguard freedom of information
 - e. Totalitarian states' systematic falsification of the truth is to be condemned
6. Truth, beauty, and sacred art
- a. Art can evoke that which is beyond words: the depths of the human heart, the soul, and the mystery of God
 - b. Art gives form to the truth of reality in sight or hearing
 - c. To the extent that it is inspired by truth and love, it bears resemblance to the God's creative activity
 - d. Sacred art draws man to adoration, prayer, and love of God
 - e. "...bishops, personally or through delegates, should see to the promotion of sacred art, old and new, in all its forms and, with the same religious care, remove from the liturgy and from places of worship everything which is not in conformity with the truth of the faith and the authentic beauty of sacred art." (CCC 2503)
- F. The ninth commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. (CCC 2514-2533)
- 1. Purification of the heart
 - a. The 6th beatitude tells us, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"(Mt. 5:8). This refers to those who attune their intellects and wills to God in three main areas:
 - i. Charity
 - ii. Chastity
 - iii. Orthodoxy of faith
 - b. The pure of heart are promised that they will one day see God as He really is, and even now:
 - i. See according to God
 - ii. Accept others as neighbors
 - iii. Perceive our bodies and the bodies of others as temples of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. The Battle for purity
 - i. Baptism purifies us from sin, but we must still struggle against concupiscence.
 - ii. We prevail by: virtue of chastity, purity of intention, purity of vision, prayer, modesty of body and feelings, purification of social climate
- G. The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's goods. (CCC 2534-2557)
- 1. The disorder of covetous desires
 - a. Forbids greed and avarice
 - b. We should banish unjust desires for another's goods
 - c. Examples of those who might "have a harder struggle..." to keep this commandment (CCC 2537)

- d. Forbids envy, the capital sin which is sadness at the sight of another's goods and the immoderate desire to acquire them for oneself
 - e. Baptized person should struggle against envy by exercising good will
 - f. Envy often comes from pride
 - g. We must train ourselves to live in humility
 - h. Rejoice in the good of others
2. The desires of the spirit
- a. Christ's faithful "have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."(Gal. 5:24) (CCC 2543)
3. Poverty of heart
- a. Precept of detachment from riches obligatory to enter the kingdom of heaven
 - b. Abandonment to the providence of the Father frees us from anxiety
4. "I want to see God."
- a. Desire for true and lasting happiness frees us from immoderate attachments.
 - b. God's people must struggle, with God's grace, to mortify the cravings of the flesh so as to prevail over the seductions of pleasure and power.
 - c. By so doing, we come to perfection and communion with God.

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