

# MORALITY



## mo·ral·i·ty

/məˈrælədē/

*noun*

principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior.

*synonyms:* [ethics](#), rights and wrongs, ethicality [More](#)

- a particular system of values and principles of conduct, especially one held by a specified person or society.  
plural noun: moralities  
"a bourgeois morality"
- the extent to which an action is right or wrong.  
"behind all the arguments lies the issue of the morality of the possession of nuclear weapons"



Abide, O Spirit of life!

All: Let peace fill our hearts,  
Let love fill our minds.  
Make us loving Disciples of Christ.  
May we all be one,  
May we all be yours,  
Abide, O Spirit of life!

Leader United in your name for ever,  
may our work reflect your desires.  
May your mercy and love always fell us.  
Abide, O Spirit of life!

All: Let peace fill our hearts,  
Let love fill our minds.  
Make us loving Disciples of Christ.  
May we all be one,  
May we all be yours,  
Abide, O Spirit of life!  
AMEN

# WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG?

In today's world it is very difficult to get people to agree on what is right and what is wrong, what is moral and what is immoral. Judge where you stand on each statement according to the scale below

**1= strong agree; 2= agree; 3=not sure; 4 disagree; 5=strongly disagree**

Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1. There is never a good reason to lie					
2. Cheating on taxes, even if you disagree with the policies of the nation, and everyone else is doing it, is always wrong					
3. Abortion can never be justified					
4. It is wrong for a rich country to engage vigorously in an arms race when it has so many poor people in its midst.					
5. Outside of marriage, it is wrong to engage in sexual intercourse					
6. People have an obligation to worship God even if they don't feel like it					
7. Given the efficiency of today's justice system, it is virtually impossible to justify capital punishment					
8. It would be dangerous and imprudent to legalize marijuana for recreational use					
9. It is wrong to access or judge people by their religion					
10 Pornography--both soft and hard, should be outlawed					
11. Legalized Gay marriage should be overturned					

Talk over your answers with your table group

Would your boss/spouse/close friend choose similarly to you?

Which one of these questions made you uncomfortable and why.

# MORALITY AND HOW IT IS DEVELOPED

How was your conscience developed?  
Who was responsible for the development of your conscience?  
Who do you look to --to be your sounding board?

## WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG AND HOW DO WE KNOW?

(Pages 2 & 3)

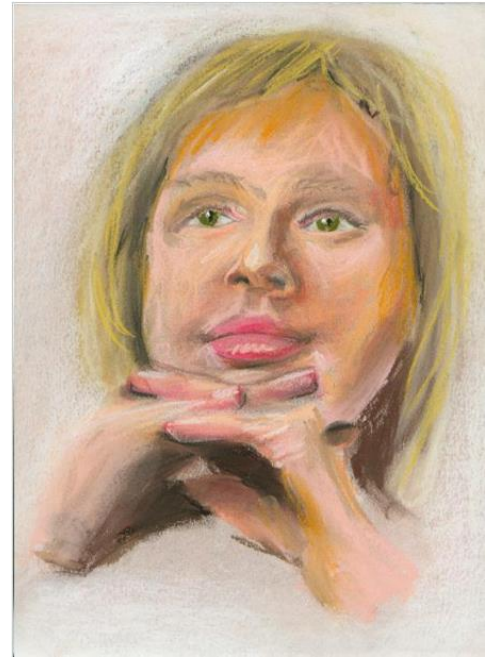
Discuss with your sponsor/candidate, a decision you made that was hurtful, or a decision made by another that hurt you.

(Pages 4 & 5)

Discuss with your sponsor/candidate, how you have used prayer in decision-making. If this is not your practice share with your candidate or sponsor how you see it could be of value in your life.

(pages 6 & 7)

Forming Conscience

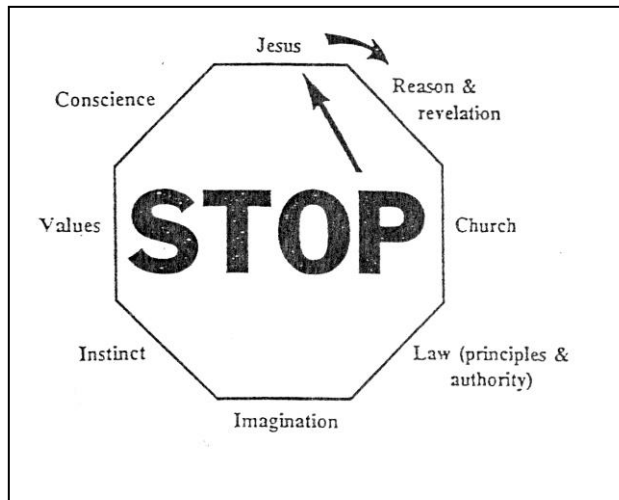




# SOME GUIDELINES FOR MAKING A MORAL DECISION

## Search

- What?
- Who ?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?



## **Think**

What are the alternatives?

What are the consequences?

## **Others**

How our actions affect others?

Consult others

## **Pray**

## **Jesus**

What did Jesus do?

## **Reason and Revelation**

Is what I am choosing to do the best that I can do as a person made in the image and likeness of God?

## **Imagination**

Dream dreams, how can even the most unbelievable scenario work in this case?

## **Law (principles and authority)**

Natural Law

Civil Law

Divine Law

## **Church**

What does the church say about this?

What do Religious guides say?

What are other Catholics doing?

## **Values**

Identify the values that are in conflict

Rank said values

Compromise?

## **Instinct**

What does your gut say?

## **Conscience**

This is an informed conscience



# A LOOK AT THE LAW

## The Ten Commandments: Ex 20, Deut 5

1. *I, the Lord, am your God, have no other gods besides me*
2. *You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain*
3. *Remember to keep holy the Sabbath*
4. *Honor your father and your mother*
5. *You shall not kill*
6. *You shall not commit adultery*
7. *You shall not steal*
8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor*
9. *You shall not covet your neighbor's house*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife*

## The Holiness code Lev. 19:2

*Be holy, for I the Lord your God, am holy.*

## Greatest Commandment: Deut. 6:4

*Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

## **Micah 6:8**

*You have been told what the Lord, requires of you:*

*Only to do what is right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

## **A Look at the Gospels**

### The Beatitudes (Attitudes of being): (Matthew 5:1-12)

1. *Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven*
2. *Blessed are the gentle; they shall have the earth for their heritage*
3. *Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted*
4. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied*
5. *Blessed are the merciful; they shall have mercy shown them*
6. *Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God*
7. *Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called daughters and sons of God*
8. *Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right; theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

## The Greatest Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40)

*You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.*

## Judgment day (Matthew 25:31-40)

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

## A Look at the Catholic Tradition

### *The Precepts of the Church*

- *Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation.*
- *Use the sacrament of reconciliation at least once a year; if in the state of mortal sin*
- *Receive the Eucharist at least once a year during the Easter season*
- *Contribute to the support of our pastors;*
- *Marry according the marriage laws of the Catholic Church*
- *Keep the days of fasting and abstinence appointed by the Church.*
  - *Ash Wednesday and Good Friday fast and abstain*
  - *Fridays in Lent abstain*

# A FEW SCENARIOS

1. You are employed by a large company that is considering the purchase of a small manufacturing company with several plants located several hundred miles away from one another. The plans call for closing down one plant, which is a major employer in a small rural town. An effort will be made to relocate some of the employees, but it is expected that the plant closure will have a devastating effect on the town. Your boss values your opinion. What will you advise your company?
2. In the course of your employment, you discover that your employer is illegally dumping toxic waste, and you believe that there is a public health concern. You speak with your boss who advises you that you are highly paid and as a result, you are expected to "mind your own business." You are afraid that if you report this violation to the appropriate government agency, you will lose your job. What will you do?
3. It is April 10, and you are busily working on your income taxes. As you go over the figures again and again, you realize that you owe the IRS. You begin to "massage your figures" -- adding a deduction here and a reducing a little interest there -- until you "break even." As your spouse says, "Everyone does it."
4. Your mother is very ill and is dying of cancer. Her pain is great. She says she can't take much more, and you are worn out watching this horrible process. She is weak and needs assistance with administering her medication. She begs you to give her a lethal dose of morphine. You can do it easily, and it is very unlikely that anyone else will ever know what has happened. What will you do?
5. Your son went through college on an ROTC scholarship. He served in the Army for four years, and when his tour of duty was over, he joined the Army Reserves. Your family has a long and proud military history, and you are proud of your son's military involvement. As a result of a conflict in another part of the world, the President calls up the reserves and your son's unit is activated. Both you and your son have studied the issue completely, and you firmly believe that the U.S. is unjustly involved in this conflict. Your son announces that he is going to leave the country rather than fight in this war. He asks for your help. What will you do?
6. Your 14-year-old daughter comes to you in August and tells you about drinking too much beer at a swim party she attended in June. She confesses to you that she and a 15-year-old male classmate experimented with sex. The home pregnancy test indicated that she is pregnant. What do you do?
7. A man with a long criminal record kills your neighbor's 18-year-old son in a brutal attack. The man was convicted in the death of your friend's son and showed no remorse throughout the trial. The neighbor has been given the opportunity to speak at the penalty phase of the

trial and wants to see the murderer sentenced to death. You are enraged over this horrible tragedy. Up to this point, you agreed with the Bishops and our Pope that the death penalty is not an option. You are very good with words, and your neighbor asks your help in writing a very strong statement urging the death penalty. The neighbor plans to read this statement to the court. What do you say and do?