

## Morality Part 1

Cecil: Meditation: Be Still and Know that I am God

Gospel Reading and Reflection for next week

Teacher

Reading from John page 173, Path thru Catholicism

Secular Morality is just doing the right thing, its what society expects. Obeying the laws of the land because we have to. Obeying the driving laws because we have to. This is totally different from Christian Morality.

Christian Morality is accepting Jesus' invitation to live and love all those around us.

Sometimes, we use as guidelines, The 10 Commandments, The Beatitudes and the Precepts of the Church. Handout.

Today we will talk about Conscience and Morality. It encompasses many chapters in our book, chapters 17 thru 21, so it must be important!

How does our conscience and our moral stance help us in our lives?

How do we form our conscience?

How do we find out about the different moral decisions that we make, where do we go to find the answers?

Read a quote from Catholic Faith Magazine.

Possessing a conscience is a great gift and correlative with our dignity as children of God. It is our Christian duty through study and especially prayer to discern the truth so as to properly form our conscience.

If we sincerely seek the truth, then the Spirit of Truth will enlighten our conscience by His grace. Morality rests in the human heart that one determines whether to respond to the call of the divine heart to live a life worthy of a follower of Christ.

Arch. John O'Connell.

We are all born with an innate sense of conscience or morality?

Are we not?

Ask the class, were you born with an innate sense of conscience or morality?

Children know what is right and wrong, we do not have to tell them.

When children live with structure and guidance it helps them to develop a better conscience.

Lets look at a Handout –“Must I always follow my conscience.”

Read in the Catechism on conscience, page 490.

Page 205 in Path thru Catholicism. Forming our conscience

How many of us are faced with a moral dilemma and do not know where to go to find out any information or who to talk to?

Let us read the story of Neil Armstrong on page 200 in Path thru Catholicism

Four points to look for when making a moral decision.

1. Prayer and more prayer.
2. Reasoning: asking for help from family/clergy/friends.
3. Information: Looking for information on the Internet and in your church community.
4. Reading scripture and church teaching.

Three types of decisions:

1. Clear-cut decisions.
2. Clouded decisions.
3. Contrary decisions.

This is how Neil Armstrong made his decision.

Let us look at the 3 points to ponder again

1. Jesus teaching --- where can we find it?

2. Appropriate people

Our family

Our Church

Our friends

Our pastor

Internet -- United States Catholic Bishops

3. Catchism of the Catholic Church.

Church Periodicals

Catholicism for Dummies

4/ Prayer, ask people to pray for you.

Break

Teacher.

I want to give you a hand out on encyclicals, it give a little history and also some information about our Magisterium the teaching body of the church.

I have the latest encyclical from Pope Benedict also.

Break into groups.

Now let us look at the exercises on page 206 and 207 -

how can we make moral decisions and where can we go to look for information.

For next week look up a moral dilemma either in the newspaper, cut it out and bring to class, or look on the Internet. Please bring to class next week and share with the class.

