



## IMPORTANT VOCABULARY

- morality
- free will
- conscience
- moral
- immoral
- nonmoral
- amoral
- sin
- Original Sin
- mortal sin
- venial sin
- sin of commission
- sin of omission
- vices
- virtues
- freedom
- license



## DEFINING “MORALITY”

- morality is a **branch of philosophy** that **determines what is \_\_\_\_\_, good/evil, permissible/impermissible human behavior**
- morality is **the act of discovering the accepted \_\_\_\_\_ of human conduct**
  - (a norm is a collectively agreed upon standard in which behavior is measured)

Discuss: Are some norms affected by culture/time while others are not?

## ALL MORALITY MUST INVOLVE:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- the ability to reason about:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (things that are important to human nature)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (fundamental truths about human nature)

## HUMAN DECISIONS CAN BE:

- \_\_\_\_\_ – in accordance with accepted norms
- \_\_\_\_\_ – violating accepted norms
- \_\_\_\_\_ – neutral, not involving moral content
- \_\_\_\_\_ – decisions made with no understanding of right or wrong

Discuss: Provide examples of each decision, and explain.



## SYSTEMS OF MORALITY

- defined by the NORM on which the system is based

Discuss: What are some systems of morality that are in existence?



## CHRISTIAN MORALITY

- is: **the way one lives his or her life in response to JESUS CHRIST**
- our ***norm*** is \_\_\_\_\_ and Jesus' teachings

Discuss: Are the norms established by Jesus subject to change?

**Permanent ethic:**



## CHRISTIAN MORALITY MUST INVOLVE

- faith: knowledge of God and our response to this knowledge of God → making God and His Kingdom the most important reality in our lives
- love
- responsibility



## GRACE AND FREE WILL

- grace (divine assistance; God at work in us) helps us to live our lives in the light of Christ
- freedom: the \_\_\_\_\_ that we have over our own \_\_\_\_\_
  - the power to choose
  - allows us to be responsible
- \_\_\_\_\_: the “meeting place” between grace (from God) and freedom (human)



## GRACE AND FREE WILL

- freedom is **not** \_\_\_\_\_
  - freedom is responsible choice \_\_\_\_\_ the common good
  - license is choice \_\_\_\_\_ that requires no responsibility or consideration for others
- If we are made in God's image, then we are only \_\_\_\_\_ when we live according to this image. **Grace is the help we need to use our free will so as to live according to God's plan for us.**



## SIN

### ○ Definitions:

- a \_\_\_\_\_ to love God and God's creation
- a \_\_\_\_\_ of free will
- a \_\_\_\_\_ to work against God's plan for creation
- responsible person acting irresponsibly
- any word, action or desire contrary to the Word of God written on our hearts.
- act committed against another (sins of \_\_\_\_\_)
- failure to act on another's behalf / failure to do something we know we ought to do (sins of \_\_\_\_\_)

## EFFECTS OF SIN

- separates us from God, others, and ourselves
- damages the covenant relationships
- is an act of \_\_\_\_\_
  - Romans 7:15, 19 "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...For I do not do the good I want, the evil I do not want is what I do."
  - Discuss: what does that mean?

## TYPES OF SIN

- \_\_\_\_\_: the human inclination to disobey God
- \_\_\_\_\_ sin: individual acts of commission or omission
  - \_\_\_\_\_: the choice to break one's relationship with God; mortal sin involves:
    - grave matter (serious)
    - full knowledge
    - complete consent
  - \_\_\_\_\_: temporary failure to live for God and others
    - lessen love for God
    - weaken our will (vices)

Remember!  
All sin is serious!



## TYPES OF SIN

- \_\_\_\_\_ sin: when sin becomes part of:
  - social structures and institutions (ex. laws – abortion, racism)
  - social behavior (ex. use of technology, media)
  - social values (ex. competition, individualism, consumerism)



## DANGERS OF SIN: VICE

- Once a sin is committed is easier to do it again.
- They are addictive, once a bad habit is formed, it can become a vice.
- \_\_\_\_\_: a bad habit that inclines us to do evil and avoid good.

## SOURCES OF MORAL TRUTH

- \_\_\_\_\_
  - part of human nature
  - *written upon our hearts* (Jeremiah 31:31-33)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ – not subject to time or culture – why?
- \_\_\_\_\_: law given to Moses by God
  - summarized in Ten Commandments
  - preparation for the New Law
- \_\_\_\_\_: law of the Gospel life of Christ
  - culmination of God's moral law
  - summarized in Sermon on the Mount



## SOURCES OF MORAL TRUTH

- \_\_\_\_\_: teachings of the Magisterium (the pope and bishops acting as the teaching authority) that guide members of the Church in applying the *permanent ethic* to daily life
- \_\_\_\_\_
  - inner sense of right and wrong that enables one to understand the consequences of moral choices
  - the “voice” of the natural moral law that instructs one on moral decision-making

## CONSCIENCE

- we must consult our conscience before, during and after a moral choice (like using a set of instructions)
- we be sure to constantly educate ourselves on moral issues so that we learn to more properly use our conscience
- erroneous types of conscience
  - scrupulous:
  - lax:
  - legalistic:
  - rationalizing: