

TEN COMMANDMENTS
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US Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapters 25-34, p.339-447.
New Catholic Answer Bible - G3, L4.

Text p. 310

“The most basic principle of the Christian moral life is the awareness that every person bears the dignity of being made in the image of God.”
God’s gifts of soul, intelligence, reasoning, free will.

Definition of moral life: friendship with God.

BUT as we are human, our free will may cause us to fall short, often in our desire to be God for ourselves. This is original sin.

Text p. 312, “We cannot speak about life in Christ or the moral life without acknowledging the reality of sin, our own sinfulness, and our need for God’s mercy.”

Sin (text p. 313): an offense against God as well as neighbor and therefore wrong. (a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor) There are levels of seriousness.

Mortal sin is an act against God that is 1) grave, 2) done with full knowledge, and 3) deliberate (not an accident). This sin destroys the loving relationship between ourselves and God.

A venial sin is wrongdoing that is less serious, but nevertheless, a separation from friendship with God.

God is rich in mercy. Mercy is love; mercy is forgiveness.

Text p. 318, Love, Rules, and Grace.

legalism

Text 318 paragraphs 5 and 6:

“Scripturally and theologically, the Christian moral life begins with a loving relationship with God...”

Sirach 15:14-20 (OT 798)

Psalms 119 (OT 684)

Matthew 5 (NT 21)

1 John 2:3-6 (NT 366)

Ten Commandment Handout

First three focus on our relationship with God; remaining seven on our relationship with others. (Greatest Commandment MT 22: 37-39; NT 54)

COMMANDMENT ONE - I am the Lord your God, whom brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. (USCCA text Ch 25, p.339)

Easy question would be “What are other gods or idols in our lives?”

1. What slavery is God freeing US from? (sin & death) (John 8:31-34 NT 157)
2. Do you know any atheists (those who deny God’s existence) or agnostics (those who consider a higher being but no certainty)? See text p. 344-345.
3. Consider these sins against God’s love: indifference, ingratitude, spiritual laziness, self-sufficiency.
4. Most people in our culture say they believe in the existence of God. What causes the disconnection between that belief and the behavior of many?

COMMANDMENT TWO - You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. (USCCA text Ch 26, p. 351)

1. What does taking God's name in vain look like?
2. How does giving honor when referring to God or others impact your thinking? Your actions?
How about dishonorable thinking? Does that impact your actions?

Blasphemy - uttering against God - inwardly or outwardly- words of hatred, reproach, or defiance; failing in respect toward in one's speech.

3. How does blasphemous talk and similar types of language corrupt the user?
4. How do you help young people to address the use of coarse language in films, TV, and music?

Sabbath (Text Ch 27, p.364-371) Also NCABible G-3.
Sunday Obligation CCC 2180-2183 (USCCA text p. 366-367)

COMMANDMENT THREE - Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
(USCCA text Ch 27, p. 361)

1. Why is it a good idea to observe a weekly holy day? What is the purpose of worship?
2. Why should we want to go to church vs. having to go to church? (See text 365)
3. What are some ideas for keeping this day special and an honor to God/ Jesus/Holy Spirit; a time of renewal? See USCCA section G-3. Also text p. 368-69.
4. Why is Christian community important?