

1

MORALITY

- “I have come that you may have life and have it to the FULL!” (Jn. 10:10)
- Invitation to Friendship w/ God
- Morality = Right Living
- Fundamental Calling: HOLINESS
- Integrity of Person—I’m made for GOD!
- Life of Grace = Life of Joy, Peace, which leads to HAPPINESS!
- Life IS good!

3

Let's review Course 1....

2

DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON AND THE MORAL ACT



- Image likeness of God
- Vocation to beatitude
- Free Choice
- Capable of Moral Action

(CCC 1700)

4

THE HUMAN PERSON



Body and Soul

- Intellect
- Will
- Passions

Human psychology

5

JUDGING HUMAN ACTS

- **Object*** – the thing done
(Talking) (Abortion)
- **Intention** – purpose, motive, reason for the choice
(To get help for a sick person) (Concern)
- **Circumstance** – elements surrounding the act
(During the Consecration at Mass) (Teenage Girl)

*** I C can never change an IEO!**

Intention or Circumstance can't change an Intrinsically Evil Object. If the Object is evil the ACT is evil.

(CCC 1750)

7

FREEDOM FOR...not from!

• Freedom for Excellence

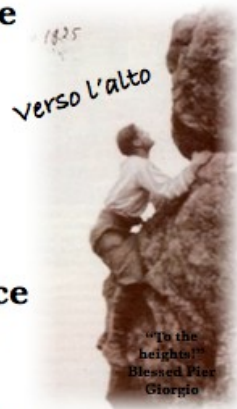
- I can do what I am created to do and to be!
- Moral Perfection!
- Life of Virtue

VS

• Freedom of Indifference

- "I can do whatever I want!"
- Life of capriciousness

Fr. Servais Pinckaers, OP: *Sources of Christian Ethics*



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Called to friendship....

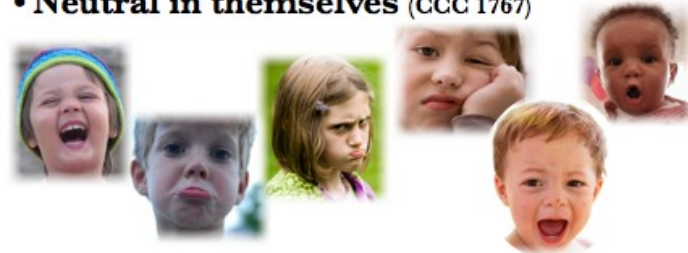


Called to holiness!

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PASSIONS

- **Natural Components of Man** (CCC 1764)
- **Neutral in themselves** (CCC 1767)



- They become **MORAL** when the intellect and will are engaged. (CCC 1773)

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PREVIEW OF COURSE 2

- **Passions** – dispose man to beatitude
- **Conscience** – man discovers a law he must obey
- **Virtue** – disposition to do the good
- **Sin** - in freedom he can choose against God
- **Law** – guidance for avoiding that which will take us away from our true happiness
- **Grace** – Christ's gift so that we can live in freedom from sin

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PASSIONS

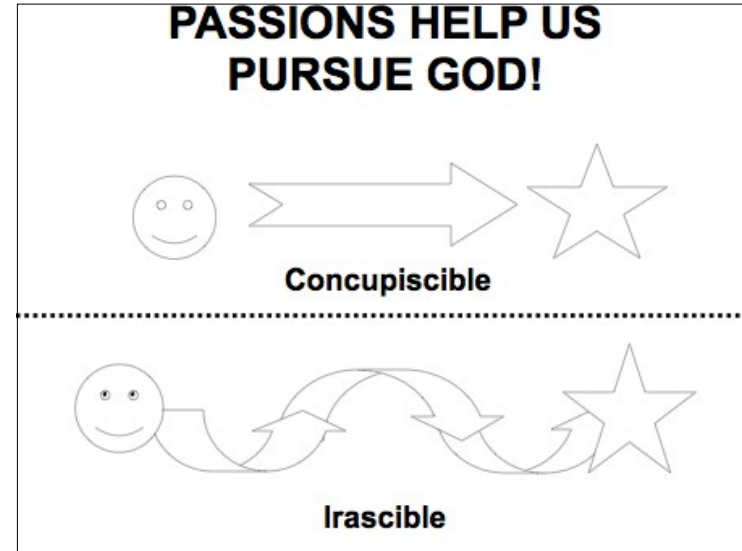
- **Movement in the soul** when we perceive good or evil.
- **Neutral in themselves** but they can incite or accompany good and evil choices, and so share in the morality of the choice.
- **The perfection of the moral good** consists in governing the passions by reason.

(CCC 1769)

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PASSIONS					
<i>CONCUPISCIBLE</i>		<i>IRASCIBLE</i>			
towards a pleasant/simple good or away from a simple evil		towards a difficult good or away from a difficult evil			
love	hatred	hope	despair		
desire	aversion	courage	fear		
joy	sadness	anger			

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PASSIONS

**God wants
our whole
being to
pursue Him.**

**“My heart and my flesh
rejoice in the living God.”
Ps.83**

14

MODERN EMOTIONAL HERESIES

- If it feels good, do it.
- One more cupcake won't matter.
- I have a right to do what I want, to have every pleasure.
- If I feel guilty, I am guilty.
- My emotions are equal to my choices.
- I must obey my emotions.

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VIRTUE & VICE

- **Habit of the soul / disposition** (CCC 1803)
 - **VIRTUE** is a good habit (CCC 1804)
 - **VICE** is an evil habit
- An **UPRIGHT WILL** orders the movements of the senses to the good and beatitude; an **EVIL WILL** succumbs to any kind of disorder (*whether intellectual, volitional, or passionate*)
- Emotions and feelings (passions) are either ordered by being taken up into virtue or disordered by vice (CCC 1768)

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Called to friendship....



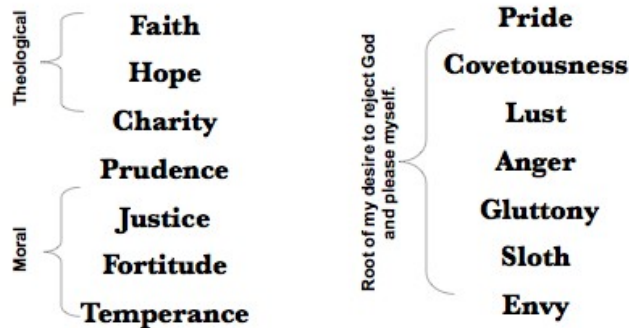
Called to holiness!

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(CCC 1806-1829)

7 VIRTUES

7 CAPITAL VICES



Grace perfects nature. The stronger the virtue the greater grace can aid our growth in holiness!

18

SIN

“Sin is an offense against reason, truth & right conscience.”
(St. Augustine)



- We are made for God. It is our dignity to be holy! (Mt. 22:38-40)
- Interior rejection of God's Love and His command to love others. (CCC 1849-1853)

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SIN

- Object, Intention, Circumstance, Freedom
 - Matter – the act
 - Mortal – Loss of God's Life within
 - “every act of disobedience to God's commandments in grave matter.” (*Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*, 17)
 - We most certainly are capable of freely rejecting God and bear the responsibility of that act.
 - Venial – Weakening of our relationship with God due to self-preference
- (CCC 1846-1864)

21

GRAVITY OF SIN

“What's the big deal?!”

Behold the
Lamb of God
who takes
away the sin of
the world.



“There is a sin that leads to death.” 1 Jn. 5:16-17

23

CONFESSION

heals
restores
strengthens

*“Confess your sins to one another.”
James 5:16*



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FUNDAMENTAL OPTION?

They say: “Our fundamental choice for God keeps us in His grace despite our sin.”

The Church says:
“You are mistaken.”

It would be presumptuous to claim that one's life has been so steadfastly turned toward God that it would not be possible for a single act of lust or abortion or blasphemy to change the direction of one's life. (*Veritatis Splendor*, 70)

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CONSCIENCE

- Practical judgment about the rightness or wrongness of one's own act. Judgment of REASON not emotion.
- Properly speaking there can be no evaluation of virtue, vice or sin without conscience.



(CCC 1776--1782)

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CONSCIENCE

- “God who probes the heart, awaits (us) there.” (Gaudium et Spes, 14)
- In the depths of his conscience, man detects a law which he does not impose upon himself but which holds him to obedience....To obey it is the very dignity of man; according to it he will be judged.” (Gaudium et Spes, 16)
- This “divine law” is “eternal, objective, and universal,” and is the “highest norm of human life.” (Dignitatis Humanae 3)

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CONSCIENCE

- Conscience is said to “witness, to bind, or incite, and also to accuse, torment, or rebuke.” ST II.I Q79.a.13
- Evaluation of a human act according to the principals of morality.



(CCC 1776--1782)

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CONSCIENCE

- **Obligation to FORM** (CCC 1783)
 - “Put on the mind of Christ.”
 - **Prayer, Study, Truth** but most of all **HUMILITY!**
- **Obligation to OBEY** (CCC 1778)
 - John Cardinal Newman, Avery Cardinal Dulles, Archbishop Chaput
- **Correct & Certain** (CCC 1790)
 - Vincible and Invincible Ignorance

“Conscience bears witness to the demands of God’s Law.” Rom.2:15

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St. Thomas More on Conscience

- “Well, I think when a statesman forsakes his private conscience for his public duty he leads his country on a straight path to chaos.”
- “And when we die and you are sent to Heaven for following your conscience and I am sent to Hell for not following mine, will you come with me -- for fellowship sake?”

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HOLBEIN, Hans
Sir Thomas More
1527

30

30

JUSTIFICATION

**The moral law guides me
and God’s grace
transforms me in the
process of becoming
“RIGHT”
with God.**

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JUSTIFICATION

- Justification is a gracious action of God which frees me from sin and communicates the righteousness of God to me through faith in Christ Jesus.
- Justification includes:
 - Remission of Sin
 - Sanctification
 - Renewal of the interior man

(CCC 1987-2029)

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GRACE

- “Free Gift” of God’s Love--God’s Life
- “Breath of Heaven” that enables us to live with God and dwell with Him in Heaven. (*Frank Sheed, Theology & Sanity*)
- Various names (*sanctifying, actual, efficient, sacramental*) explain the effects of God’s Life moving within our soul.

(CCC 1996-2005)

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LAW & GRACE

- "The law of the spirit of life, in Christ Jesus, hath delivered me from the law of sin and of death." (*Romans 8:2*)
- “Even the letter of the Gospel--the written moral precepts contained in it--would kill were it not for the healing grace of faith present within.” (*St. Augustine*)
- Infused Virtues: The love of God is “poured into our hearts.” (*Rom. 5.5*)

Summa Theologiae I.II.106

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WE NEED GRACE

- The natural virtues are insufficient for the life of full friendship. The Virtues are perfected and given a new orientation by God “working in us without us.”
- The moral life requires grace! The Spirit enlightens our mind to know the good and strengthens the will to choose it.

(CCC 1810-1811)

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WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT

How do we awaken the Holy Spirit within us?

What obstacles are blocking His FULL power working in us and through us?



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Called to friendship....



Called to holiness!

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LOVE, VIRTUE & GRACE

- Invitation to the Moral Life
- Dignity of Human Person
- Call to Beatitude
- Directing the Passions
- Establishing Virtue—Responding to the Invitation—Breaking Free of Vice/Sin
- Forming & Obeying Conscience
- Receiving Grace – Holy Spirit

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