

PreKeysis Outline

9-27-06

Faith Fact: The four gospels tell the story of Jesus. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

The decision to live our life in Christ: How is living a Christian moral life a path to freedom?

Vocabulary

Morality: the way we are created to live.

Sin: an offense against God; contrary to the eternal Law of God.

Venial sin: sin that doesn't destroy the divine life of the soul; wounds it

Mortal sin: destroys the divine life in the soul; must be a grave matter, full knowledge, and full consent of the will.

Natural law: the original sense of right and wrong

Conscience: a persistent voice that helps us make the right choices.

Mt. 5:16 “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

- Who are some people who have made a positive contribution to building a just society?
- What are some simple choices that show you are being a light in the world like Christ?

Free will: What is free will?

Sirach 15:15 “If you choose you can keep the commandments; it is loyalty to do his will.”

- What keeps us from choosing God's will and embracing sin instead of being a light in the world?
- How do we know we are on the right track in following God?
 - Our conscience
 - Natural Law
- Moral acts
 - Object: what we knowingly choose to do or not do (murder, adultery, trashing another's reputation)
 - Intention: why we choose, our motive. A good intention can never turn an evil act into a good act, but a bad intention can

turn a good act into an evil one (compliment someone so they will write you a good recommendation)

- Circumstances: how, who, when, and where of the act

****Remember that the Holy Spirit is always at work in the world. It may seem everything is bad because that is what the media tells us, but there are people out there everywhere doing good deeds.**

Turning away from God's love

- We sometimes ignore our conscience and freely and knowingly do the wrong thing. This is called sin.
- Sin sets us against God and turns our hearts away from his love.
- **Mortal sins**
 - Deadly
 - Turn our backs totally on God
 - Kills completely the life of grace within us
- **Venial sins**
 - A less serious offense against God
 - Not seriously evil
 - Don't have full knowledge
 - We don't have complete freedom
 - Shouldn't take them lightly
 - Habitual venial sin can set us up for more serious sins.
- **The Capital Sins: pride, greed, envy, rage, lust, gluttony, and laziness**

The gift of our conscience

- A persistent voice that helps us make the right choices
- A conscience can be formed—by our parents, teachers, the pope and bishops
- When we build our conscience, we are building a guide that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, leads us to God

Ways to form your conscience

- Always think before you act
- Remember the choices Jesus made
- Remember the teachings of the church
- Pray to the Holy Spirit
- Receive the sacraments

****Going to Reconciliation helps us examine our conscience and make an honest review of our moral life**

How does our church make a difference? Retreats. Help us evaluate how we are responding to God's love.