

Living in the Kingdom

Lesson 7: Life in Messiah

The Dignity of the Human Person



CCC 1691

1. *Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God.*

CCC 1696
Deut 30:19

2. *There are two ways, the one of life, the other of death. (Didache 1)*

CCC 1701-11

3. Christ makes man fully manifest to himself and brings to light his exalted vocation. The human person is ordered to God and destined for eternal beatitude. He pursues his perfection in seeking and loving what is true and good and avoiding evil.

CCC 1712-14

4. Man's freedom is an "outstanding manifestation of the divine image." Man is obliged to follow the moral law, but wounded in his nature by original sin, he is subject to error and inclined to evil.

CCC 1715

5. He who believes in Christ has new life in the Holy Spirit. The moral life, increased and brought to maturity in grace, will reach its fulfillment in the glory of heaven.

Mt 5:3-12
CCC 1725-29

6. The **Beatitudes** respond to the desire for happiness that God has placed in the human heart. They teach us our final end: the Kingdom, the vision of God, participation in the divine nature, eternal life, and rest in God. The Beatitudes confront us with decisive moral choices and invite us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek first the love of God.

CCC 1730-33

7. Man's **freedom**: God created man a free, rational being, so that he might seek his creator and attain his perfection by cleaving to him. Freedom gives man the possibility of choosing between good and evil. The more one does good, the freer one becomes.

CCC 1734-42

8. Freedom makes man responsible for his acts. Sin is an abuse of freedom. By deviating from the moral law man violates his own freedom, becomes imprisoned within himself, disrupts neighborly fellowship, and rebels against divine truth. By redeeming us Christ has come to set us free.

CCC 1750

9. The **morality of human acts**: Freedom makes man a moral subject, and so human acts can be either good or evil. The morality of human acts depends on: a) the object chosen; b) the intention; c) the circumstances of the action.

CCC 1753-55

10. A good intention does not justify an evil action. The end does not justify the means. A morally good act requires the goodness of its object, of its end and of its circumstances together. Some acts are always wrong to choose. One may not do evil so that good may result from it.

CCC 1763-75

11. The "passions" (affections or feelings such as love and hatred, desire and fear, joy, sadness, anger) incline us to act or not to act in regard to something felt to be good or evil. They connect the life of the senses and the life of the mind. Passions are neither good nor evil, but there is moral good or evil in them when they engage reason and will. Moral

<p>CCC 1776-82</p>	<p>perfection consists in man being moved to the good not only by his will but also by his “heart.”</p> <p>12. Conscience is man’s most secret core and his sanctuary, a law inscribed by God in man’s heart calling him to love and do what is good and to avoid evil. Man is obliged to follow his conscience, and should not be forced to act contrary to it. Conscience leads to conversion from sin, and must be formed by the word of God – a lifelong task. Conscience can remain in ignorance and make wrong judgments.</p>
<p>CCC 1803</p>	<p>13. A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. Virtues govern our acts, order our passions, and guide our conduct according to reason and faith. They are acquired by human effort and are the fruit and seed of morally good acts, leading us to communion with divine love. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God.</p>
<p>CCC 1805-1809</p>	<p>14. The four cardinal virtues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prudence: disposes the reason to always discern our true good and to choose the right way to achieve it. b. Justice: the firm and constant will to give God and neighbor their due. c. Fortitude: ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. Strengthens resolve to resist temptations, conquer fear, and face trials and persecutions. d. Temperance: moderates the attraction of the pleasures of the senses and provides balance in the use of created goods. Ensures the will’s mastery over instincts.
<p>CCC 1812-13</p>	<p>15. The theological virtues dispose Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. They have God as origin, motive, and object. They inform the moral virtues and give life to them. The three theological virtues are faith, hope and charity (love).</p>
<p>CCC 1814-16 Heb 11:1-6 Mt 10:32-33</p>	<p>16. By faith, we believe in God and in all that he has revealed to us through the Church. Faith apart from works is dead. Deprived of hope and love, faith does not fully unite the believer to Christ. Christians must profess and spread their faith.</p>
<p>CCC 1817-21 Heb 10:23</p>	<p>17. By hope we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>CCC 1822-29 1 Cor 13</p>	<p>18. By charity, we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for love of God. Charity keeps the commandments of God, even to the love of enemies. The practice of charity gives to the Christian the spiritual freedom of the children of God.</p>
<p>CCC 1830-32 Isa 11:1-2 Gal 5:22-23</p>	<p>19. The gifts of the Holy Spirit sustain the moral life of Christians. They are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. They are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.</p>