

Christian Moral Living & Social Justice



Presented by Gideon Boyle
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Content & Resources

Questions:

- Where do our beliefs come from?
- What does Christian moral living look like?
- What is social justice?
- What is the role of the Church in social justice?

References:

- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)
- Sacred Scripture
- My own experience

Where do our Moral Beliefs Ultimately come from?

- Ultimately they come from God.
- God is 1 substance, 3 persons. God is Love.
- The Trinitarian being of God consists of the lover, the beloved, and the love between them.

-Augustine, De Trinitate

- Love Loves Love
- Law of the Gospel: Matthew 22:35-40

Law of the Gospel

“...one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” –
Matthew 22: 35-40



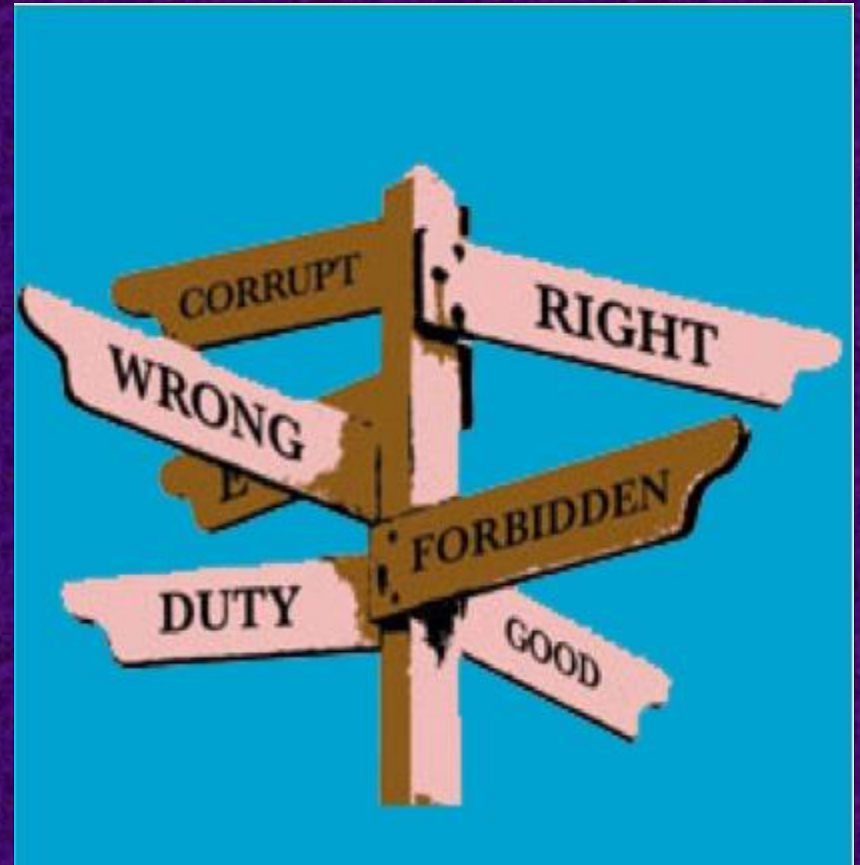
How has God specifically shaped our Moral Beliefs?



The Natural Law

- The moral standards that govern human behavior which can be objectively derived from the nature of human beings and the nature of the world through reason.
- Permanent through time
- “Natural Law is written and engraved in the soul of each and every man, because it is human reason ordaining him to do good and forbidding him to sin”

CCC 1954-1959



The Revealed Law

- Revealed by God to His people progressively since creation.
- Comes through Prophets, Covenants
- Culminates in revealing Himself fully in Jesus
- Recorded in Scripture
- Continues to be re-explained.



Revealed Law - The Law of Moses

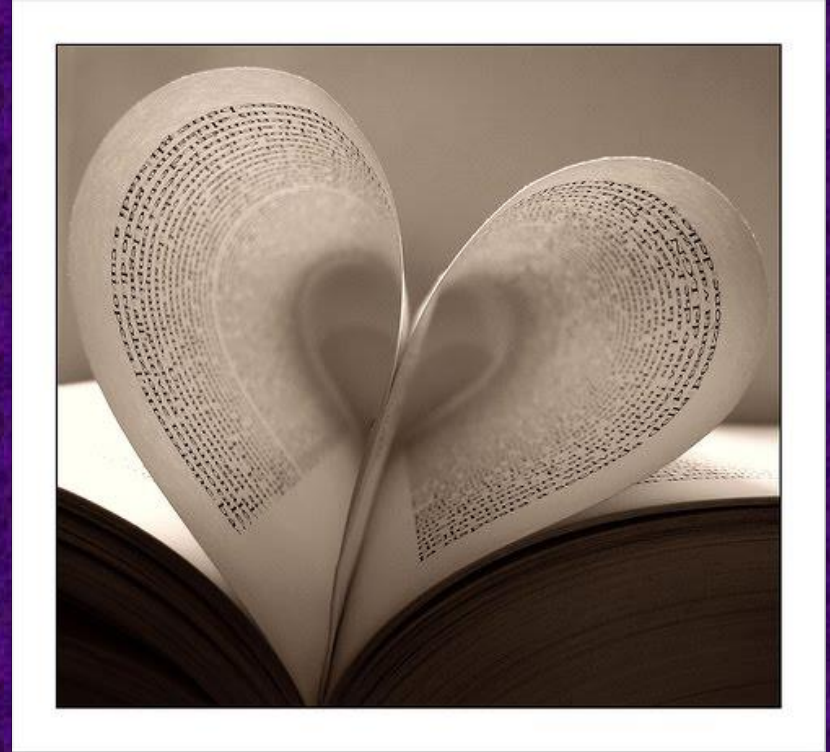
- The Ten Commandments
- (Exodus 20:2-17)
- First 3 commandments focus on our relationship with God
- Last 7 commandments deal with our relationship with each other



Old Law – Preparation for the Gospel

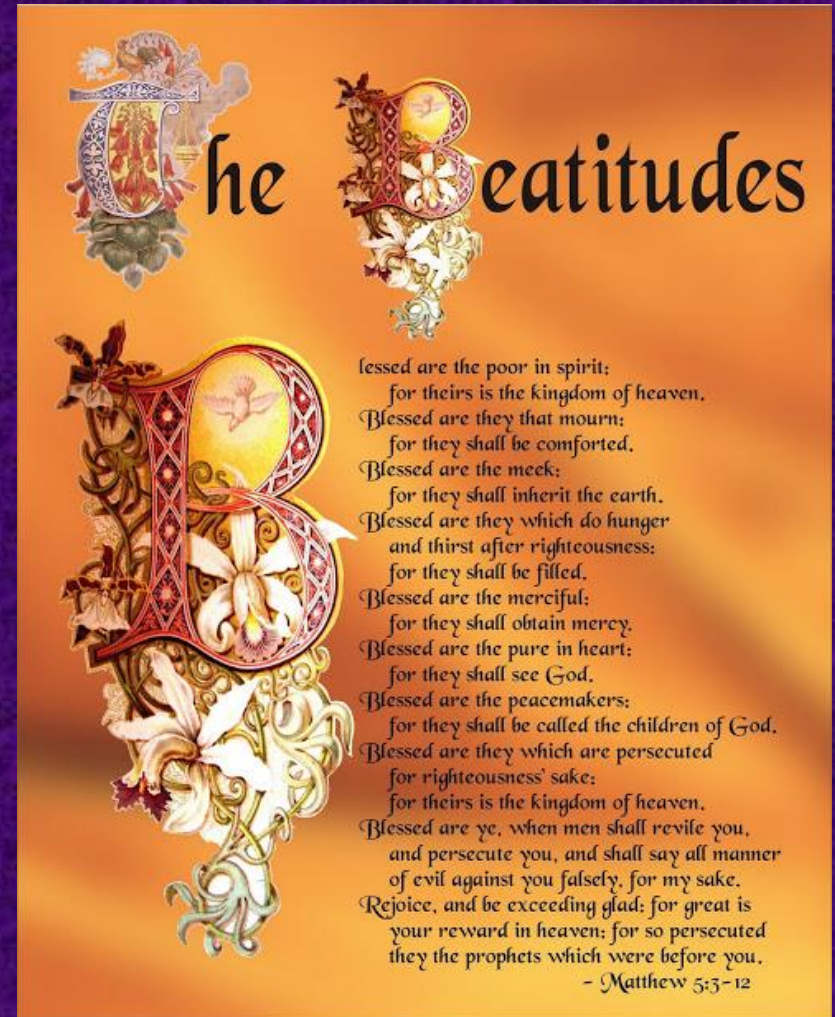
- “I will establish a new Covenant with the House of Israel... I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts.”

Hebrews 10:16



Beatitudes

- Heart of Jesus' preaching
- Express the vocations of the faithful
- Actions and attitudes which are characteristic of Christian life
- CCC 1716



The Moral Law

•The natural law provides the revealed law and grace with a foundation prepared by God and in accordance with the work of the Spirit

CCC 1960



What is Social Justice?

- Jesus demonstrated social justice
- Even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged
- “As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.” CCC 1932



Freedom and Joy

- The Law of the Gospel sets us Free.
 - From enslaving ourselves to sin
 - From enslaving others by our sin
- The Law of the Gospel reveals to us how humans are built to find Joy.



Sin

Spiritual Consequence: Turning away from God



Mortal Sin

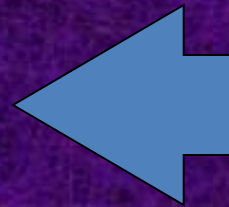
- Kills relationship with God
- 3 conditions required:
 - Seriousness
 - Consent
 - Knowledge



Venial Sin

- Damages relationship with God

Unrepentant venial sin can have the same effect as mortal sin

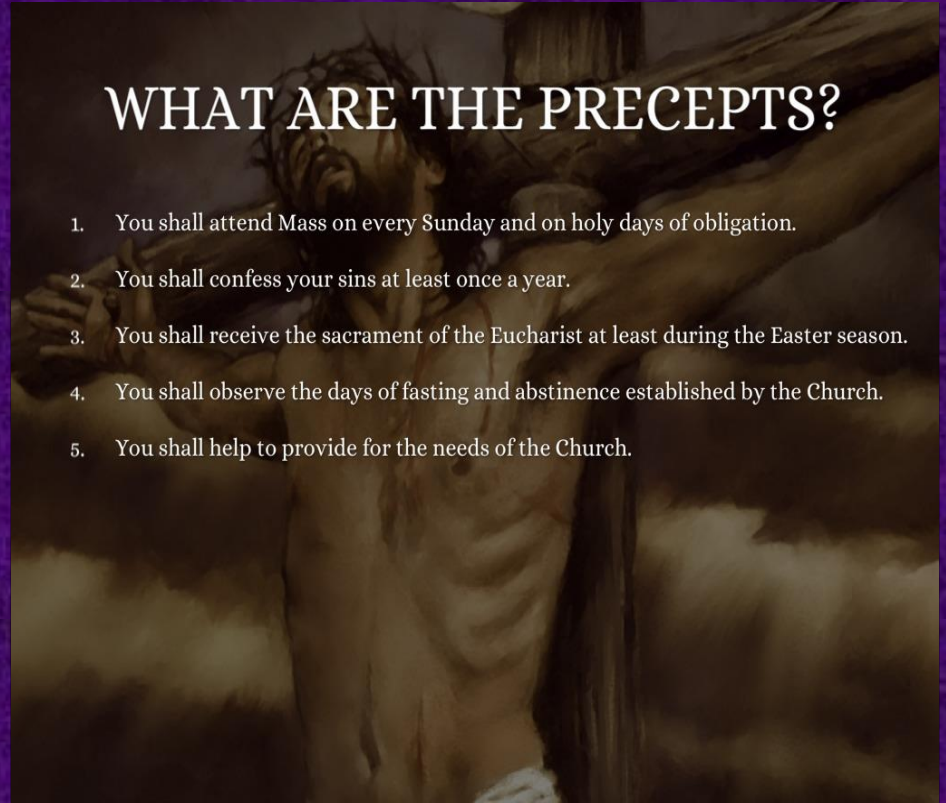


5 Precepts of the Church

- Mass attendance
 - Confessing sins
 - Receiving Eucharist
 - Observing days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
 - Help provide for the needs of the Church
- CCC 2041

WHAT ARE THE PRECEPTS?

1. You shall attend Mass on every Sunday and on holy days of obligation.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.



Moral Conscience

- The education of the conscience is a lifelong task

CCC 1784

- Aided by gifts of the Holy Spirit, witness and advice of others and guided by the authority of the Church

CCC 1785



How Do We Educate Our Consciences?

- Role of the Magisterium
- Pastors, homilies
- Reading (Church documents, etc.)
- Prayer, examination of conscience



How to Carry out Social Justice

- Don't flaunt your good deeds to be seen by men, but pray to your father who sees in secret.
- Don't be hypocritical.
- Our lives are a powerful witness to draw others to faith or to sin. CCC 2044
- Faith seeks Understanding
- We walk together.



We Walk Together

- We all make up the Body of Christ
- We receive example from His Blessed Mother and the saints
- Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium guide us in our lifelong quest to inform our consciences



Responsibility to Love

- The word ‘responsibility’ has two parts – Response + Ability
- Response – the “Assent of Faith”
- Ability – the gift from God of our intellect and our conscience
- Love God and your neighbor.



Discussion Questions

- What insight from the presentation tonight struck a chord with you and why?
- As you look back over your life, who were the people who inspired you to explore the Christian life through their witness?
- What do you actively do to develop your moral conscience or what avenues are you now inspired to explore?