

Morality: The Framework

(Reference: *This Is Our Faith*, Chapters 17 and 19)

Opening Prayer: The Confiteor

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned through my own fault,
in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;
and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

I. Introduction.

- Why is this subject important? (Mt. 5:17-20; Mt. 7: 13-14, 21-23; Mt. 25:41-46; Lk. 13:24-30; Lk. 16:19-31)
- Why is it such a difficult subject to discuss?

Contrast the following statements:

“At the heart of liberty is the right to define one’s own concept of existence, of meaning, of the universe, and of the mystery of human life.”

“Inasmuch as the natural law expresses the dignity of the human person and lays the foundation for . . . fundamental rights and duties, it is universal in its precepts and its authority extends to all mankind.”

Which statement do you think represents the prevailing view in Western culture?

II. Sources of Morality.

- A. Reason; Natural Law. (Rom. 2:14-15)

B. The Bible.

1. The Old Testament.

- a. The Law of Love. (Deut. 6:5; Lev. 19:18)

- b. The Ten Commandments. (Ex.20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21)

2. The New Testament.

- a. Reinforcement of the Old Law. (Mt. 22:34-40; Mk. 12:28-31; Lk. 10:25-28; Mk. 7:20-23; Mk. 10:19)

- b. Refinement of the Old Law. (Mt. 7:12; Lk. 10:29-37; Mt. 5:21-48)

- c. The New Law. (Mt. 5:1-12; Mt. 6:19-21, 24; Mk. 12:41-44; Lk. 21:1-4; Mt. 25:31-46; *see This Is Our Faith* pp. 246-47)

C. Church Teaching.

1. Teaching Authority Generally. (Mt. 16:18-19)

2. Catholic Social Teaching. (*This Is Our Faith* Ch. 18) (an entire session will be devoted to this topic)

3. Precepts of the Church. (*This Is Our Faith* pp. 280-82)

III. Evaluation of the Morality of Actions. (*This Is Our Faith* pp. 248-50)

A. Object.

B. Intention.

C. Circumstances.

1. Degree of Good or Evil.

2. Degree of Responsibility.

IV. Conscience. (*This Is Our Faith* pp. 250-53)

A. Definition.

B. Formation.

C. Obligation to Follow.

V. Sin. (*This Is Our Faith* pp. 256-57)

A. Definition of Sin.

B. Gravity of Sin.

1. Mortal.

2. Venial. (1 Jn. 5:16-17)