

# 1 Hearing God's Voice

1. The secret to happiness is to draw near Jesus and learn from him.
2. Essential steps to Catholic Morality are to do as Jesus says and to put into practice his example and his teaching.
3. The "Definition" of morality is knowledge based on human experience, reason, and God's revelation that discovers what people ought do to live fully human lives. Or it's "knowing what ought to be done" or "The science of what humans ought to do by reason of who they are."
4. Basic to being a moral human being is appreciating the "gift of being human" and respecting the value of human life. Using intellect and law also are to guide one's freedoms.
5. Forming, informing, and following a conscience are important. Repenting and seeking forgiveness when one does something wrong. Loving God above all is important. Loving oneself is also important. (Hey, a good message!)
6. Loving your neighbor is important.
7. "Make yourself what you are." There is within the self the person who one would like to be. One has the potential and the power to become the person one would like to become.
8. It is less the things one does than it is the kind of things one does. People want to be popular, respected, and accepted for who they are. Apparently a clip from Wicked works here.
9. Atheism. This is the philosophy I already know, because it's a portion of mine.
10. Deism is the belief in a God but the God is no longer involved (or in the case of Nietzsche dead.)
11. Agnosticism, the idea God cannot be proven.
12. Dignity is the quality of being worthy of esteem or respect. Every human person has worth and value. Catholics view this as being because of our creation in God's image. Inherent means it does not need to be earned or required.
13. Animals do not have "free will," that is, the power rooted in reason and will that enables one to perform deliberate actions on one's own responsibility.
14. Humanity has the ability to love. Capacity to grow and responsibility.
15. Principle of Subsidiarity is the idea of not doing what one below you can do as well or better.
16. Common Good is the good of all, even if it is to the detriment of the few.
17. Solidarity is unity with others (duh.)
18. Kohlberg (debunked) said that people go through a series of 6 moral stages : Reward/punishment, Self-interest (Me first, hedonism.) Others first, Legalistic, What Society Stands For, and the idea of principles. Kohlberg posited a Christian form of this.
19. Humans are by nature social, but do enjoy time to selves. People are a part of various social groups with principles of unity.
20. There is a distinct concept of "Original Sin" in Catholicism. This is a "hereditary stain" which means by some confusing means it got passed on? God works in mysterious ways, apparently.
21. There are 6 steps to living a moral life: be who you are, respect everyone, develop and share gifts, love God, love the self, love others.

## 2 Right Reason in Action(or: Morality?)

1. Right Reason in Action is based on Prudence and Discernment. Discernment is a decision making process attending to the implications and consequences of an action or choice.
2. STOP: Search out the Facts, Think about alternatives and consequences, think about others, pray.
3. Actions express who we are, form us into who we will be, and impact the world around us.
4. Obviously, intention has its importance. Teaching is that the action is only good if the action and the intention are good.
5. Circumstance can alter the morality of something, though they cannot change the moral quality of an act; they cannot make good an evil action.
6. In the idea of the Catholic church, for something to be truly moral, it should have good action, good intention, and good circumstances morally. This can't always happen, and the Church doesn't endy this.
7. Alternatives allow people to "choose freely" or something.
8. Consider consequences, and ask if everyone in that situation should act in the same way.
9. One must also consider the effects of one's actions on others.
10. Consulting with others is important to decision making.
11. The idea is posited that the Church has some authority and power to inform Catholics in matters of morality.
12. The Golden Rule, which in Christianity is not motivated by the actual desire to be treated by others as oneself would want to be treated, but rather by being a good person.
13. Prayer apparently may give a different perspective whenever one takes time away to pray.

## 3 Rules, Regulations, and the Rest

1. There are many rules and regulations through life. The regulations, however, are in place for a reason.
2. Freedom is the power to perform deliberate actions in one's own responsibility.
3. Determinism is the philosophy holding that every event, action, and decision results from something independent of the human will.
4. Freedoms can be external (from outside forces) and internal (from inside factors.) Internal factors often limit the choices.
5. Human freedom is obviously limited by a handful of things.
6. True freedom is not license.
7. Abuses against freedom include ignorance, inadvertance, duress, inordinate attachments, fear, and habit.
8. Responsibility is accountability linked to a person.
9. Emotions are morally neutral, but actions are not.
10. Jesus is the fundamental norm of Christian morality (obviously.)

11. Norms originate as beliefs.
12. The purpose of both general and specific norms is to direct individuals and societies toward responsible behavior and right action.
13. Law is, by definition:
  - Reasonable
  - For the common good
  - Made by competent authorities.
  - Must be announced.
  - Is a basic necessity for a harmonious society.
14. The law is in place to prevent immoral people from destroying the rights of others, ensure the smooth run of society, and attempt to guide the members to the fulfillment of its purpose.
15. Natural law is the participation of humans in “God’s Eternal Law.” This reveals God’s intentions, or some such.
16. There are 3 kinds of Civil Law:
  - (a) Restrictive – You can’t do things.
  - (b) Directive – You have to do things.
  - (c) Progressive – Law that helps a society move forward. Can be either of the previous types.
17. The claim at hand is that Civil Law is only good insofar as it conforms to God’s eternal law.
18. The Old Law is the 10 commandments.
19. The New Law is the Divine Law of the New Testament, guiding with four purposes.
  - (a) It helps people on the path toward God.
  - (b) It helps discern when there are conflicting ideas of right and wrong.
  - (c) It speaks of motivation.
  - (d) It indicates what is sinful.