

Chapter 10

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *How do we explain the violent portrayals of God in the Bible?*

Despite some of the accounts in the Bible, God does not advocate violence. We must remember that Scripture reflects a gradually increasing understanding of God. The Bible reveals that the Israelites' grasp of God's Law evolves and grows. God becomes most fully revealed to us in Jesus Christ, who teaches that our Father is a God of love.

2. *How did Jesus respond to violence?*

Jesus taught his disciples to love their enemies. He even asked the Father to forgive those who were crucifying him.

3. *What are some ways we as individuals can stop violence before it happens?*

We can reflect by considering how our behavior and choices affect others. We can be truthful by making sure we pass on factual information. We can be welcoming by getting to know people who are different from us. We can practice empathy. We can confess our errors and ask forgiveness. We can forgive others instead of holding grudges. We can take responsibility by getting involved in our community and government. We can be peaceful by acting with kindness and love.

4. *What is communal sin, and who is to blame for it?*

Communal sin is the negative influence exerted on people by communal situations and social structures that are the fruit of our sins. The community as a whole is responsible for communal sin.

5. *Why is money a cause for so much sin?*

Saint Paul says that our love of money leads us toward sin, not the money itself. The temptation to use it only for one's selfish desires can be very strong. Greed is a sign of a lack of concern for the suffering of other human beings.

6. *Why should we carefully consider the sinful possibilities of technological advancements?*

The problem with technological advancements is that we cannot look into the future to see how these decisions will affect us individually and as a society. We should not play the role of God, and we must be extremely careful that we do not create the conditions for sin. We must acknowledge the goodness of God's creation, and we should not mess with the natural order that God set in place.

7. *How is taking care of the environment a commandment from God?*

When God created humans, he told us to have "dominion" over all creation. Dominion means "having authority over something," but not unlimited power. This is God's commandment to protect and nurture creation.



8. *What did Pope Benedict XVI mean when he said, “If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation”?*

The environment, poverty, and peace are interconnected. Environmental problems can lead to ecological disasters and poverty. Together these situations can put a country into social turmoil, government instability, and even war.

9. *Why is it important that we consider ourselves stewards of God’s creation?*

We are called to be stewards of God’s creation by responsibly using and caring for the gifts of creation that God has given us. A steward is not someone who is the final recipient of a gift, but rather one who manages and cares for something so that it can be passed on to another. The Earth is not simply a lifeless thing for us to exploit. It is an interconnected dynamic entity that requires our care and attention so that we may pass it on to our children.

(The quotation by Pope Benedict XVI is from his “Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace,” number 1, January 1, 2010, at http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20091208_xliii-world-day-peace.html. Copyright © LEV.)

