

Name _____

Unit 1 Reading Guide

Foundational Principles for Christian Morality

Chapter 1: Moral Choices and God's Plan

Article 1: Created for Love and Happiness

1. God's Revelation made known to us through _____ and _____ is based on one core truth: God created human beings to live in _____ with him.
2. Even when we know the truth, the effects of _____ make it difficult to live as God calls us to live.
3. When we make choices to follow Christ, we participate in God's _____ and will know true _____ and _____.
4. Having a _____ means that God has given us the ability to be in communion with him in a way that is not limited by _____ or _____.
5. Our _____ allows us to distinguish between what is truly _____ and what only appears to be _____.
6. The gift of _____ makes it possible for us to choose the good that our _____ enables us to understand.

Article 2: Genesis, Chapter 3: Freedom and Original Sin

1. Although God wants each of us to live in perfect _____ with him, he doesn't _____ us to do so.
2. Although _____ may weaken our ability to choose good over evil, our free will—and the _____ that comes with it—cannot be taken away.
3. Do not expect biblical _____ to be scientific explanations about the causes of things. Rather, they creatively illustrate _____, rooted in the deep faith of the ancient _____.
4. With the loss of Adam and Eve's friendship with God, we lost the grace of _____, which was the _____ within ourselves, with one another, and with all creation.
5. Because of _____, our will is weakened, and we have an _____ to sin.



Article 3: The Beatitudes: New Life in Christ

1. The inspiring stories of the _____ reveal to us that after Adam and Eve's sin, God was at work to get _____ to turn away from sin and to turn toward him.
2. In calling us to place our faith in him, Christ calls us to an entirely new _____. This vision is expressed in the _____.
3. "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for _____, / for they will be _____" (Matthew 5:3–12).
4. A life of _____ purifies our hearts and prepares us for the _____ and joy that will come when we enter into perfect communion with the Holy Trinity in _____.
5. Called by God the _____, empowered by the _____, and guided by the teaching and example of _____, the Son of God, we constantly grow closer to the _____ through our moral choices.

Article 4: Justification and Sanctification

1. We are saved through God's work, not our own _____. Our primary goal in Christian morality is to _____ with God's grace, not to try to _____ our way into Heaven.
2. The process by which God's grace frees us from sin and _____ us (makes us holy) is called _____.
3. The _____ is the one who prompts us and moves us toward conversion of heart. His grace _____ us in Baptism, freeing us from _____ and personal sins, and his grace continues to make us holy, or _____ us, as we cooperate with him to do good and avoid evil.
4. _____ came to believe that modeling one's life on the example of Christ was a _____ and eventually became convinced that such a life would be more satisfying than life in a _____.
5. In the theological sense, having _____ means that God sees us as _____ persons, free from sin and sanctified by his grace.

Chapter 2: The Law of God

Article 5: God's Eternal Law

1. Our loving Creator placed in his creation an _____ that reflects himself. We sometimes call this order _____ Law or _____ Law.
2. _____ law comes from God and is a rational expression of Eternal Law. _____ law governs the _____ human beings have with God and with one another.



3. If we listen to our _____ and follow moral law, we will live in _____ with God now and forever. This is why every person is _____ to follow moral law.

Article 6: Natural Moral Law

1. _____ is the moral law that can be understood through the use of _____. It is our God-given ability to understand what it means to be in _____ with God, other people, the world, and ourselves.
2. The _____ is a good example of a natural moral law. Call it common sense or basic moral sense, but natural law dictates that we should _____ the way we want to be treated.
3. _____ philosophy, particularly the teachings of the philosopher Aristotle, was one of the _____ expressions of natural law.
4. In the first chapter of the Letter to the _____, Saint _____ explains why every person is responsible for the _____ of their sins.
5. Centuries later, Saint _____ also appeals to the natural moral law to explain how all people, Christian or not, know in their _____ what is right.
6. Unfortunately, our ability to know the natural law is _____ because of Original Sin. Original Sin _____ our human nature, and we are subject to _____, _____, and _____.

Article 7: Law and the Old Testament

1. The Law of Moses, also called the _____, is the _____ stage of God's Revelation to us about how we are to live as people made in his image.
2. The Old Law is summarized in the _____ that God revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai. The _____ are also referred to as the _____.
3. The Jewish name for the first five books of the Bible is the _____. The Hebrew word _____ is sometimes translated as "law," but it is better translated as "_____."
4. Through the _____, God sought to restore the _____ that was lost through Original Sin. As part of the _____, the Ten Commandments taught the _____ how to live in loving relationship with God and with one another.
5. The Ten Commandments show what must be done, but they do not give us the _____, or the _____ of the Holy Spirit, to do it.

Article 8: Law and the New Testament

1. When Jesus established the New Covenant he also taught a _____, which _____ and _____ the Old Law. This New Law, also called the Law of the _____, is the _____ of God's moral law, both natural and revealed.



2. Although Jesus' New Law is found in many different places throughout the _____, he taught the core of it in his _____.
3. Many of the _____ in the Sermon on the Mount begin with Jesus saying, "You have heard that it was said . . ." after which he quotes a _____ from the Old Testament. Jesus then teaches the true meaning of that _____. With this formula, Jesus is showing us that his New Law does not _____ or _____ the Old Law but instead releases its full _____.
4. The two _____ emphasize that the heart of the New Law is love. These two commandments were not _____; they were part of the _____.
5. Jesus calls us to a deeper _____ because he wants to give us the _____ of the Holy Spirit, the very love of God in our hearts, to carry out his commandments. That is why the New Law is called the _____.
6. It is truly amazing that God wrote the _____ into the hearts and minds of all people, made it even clearer in the _____, and when we still didn't get it, the Father sent his Son, who became one of us to reveal the _____, the perfection of the _____.

Article 9: Moral Law and the Church

1. Christ has given the Church the responsibility of being a _____ to the world and a _____ of his New Law. The Church does this through the _____ of her members and by _____ the world Christ's Law of Love.
2. The _____ provide us with general guidance in living a Christian life, and the Church's _____ provides specific rules to maintain good order within the visible society of the Church.
3. God has given the _____—the bishops of the world united with the Pope—the responsibility for passing on and teaching his _____. Revelation includes moral truth, and so the _____ has the responsibility for _____ the fullness of the New Law of Christ first to the Church and to the entire world.
4. When the Pope and the bishops agree on a matter of faith and morals, they speak with _____. This means that the Holy Spirit guides them to teach the truths, or _____, of our faith without _____.

Chapter 3: Sin and Its Consequences

Article 10: Sin in the Old Testament

1. _____ and _____ were not part of God's plan for human beings. Throughout history, God has worked to save us from our _____ to _____ and _____.
2. One key idea about sin, especially in the _____, is that sin is _____ against God.



3. The Hebrew word in the Old Testament most commonly translated as sin is *chatâ'*, a word that means " _____ , " as in an archer _____ his target. This concept points to another key understanding of sin, that sin is _____ the goal of living a life in _____ with God's Eternal Law.
4. Under the Old Covenant, there was a tendency for the Israelites to think you would be _____ for sin or _____ for virtue in this life, rather than the next.
5. Contrary to these misunderstandings about the _____ for sin, the Church teaches us that we should not think of punishment for sin as some kind of _____ inflicted on us by God; rather, punishment for sin _____ from the nature of sin.
6. Further, our sins don't just harm us though; they _____ others (including family members) but not as a punishment from God. By its very nature, our sin affects the _____ , just as our acts of virtue build up the _____ .

Article 11: Sin in the New Testament

1. Other Greek words associated with sin in the _____ are *paraptoma* and *parabasis*, which can be translated as " _____ , " and *anomia*, which is usually translated as " _____ . "
2. Jesus is revealing an important insight about sin: every sin is a _____ against the _____ , a _____ about what truly brings God's saving love and joy into the world.
3. Sinful acts are done in darkness—not _____ darkness, of course, but _____ darkness. Most people keep their sins secret because they are _____ of them, because deep in their hearts they know that their actions are _____ against God's truth and are _____ .
4. In his Letter to the _____ , Saint Paul speaks at length about sin, its effects, and how we are freed from it. He teaches that Jews and _____ (meaning all non-Jews) are "all under the _____ " (3:9). A few verses later, he says, "All have _____ and are deprived of the glory of God" (verse 23).
5. The emphasis on _____ sin is the heart of the New Law, the Law of Love. Christ teaches us that God is primarily waiting to _____ us, not to _____ us.
6. Paul confirms the teaching of the Old Testament—sin leads to _____ . We have all sinned and we all will _____ . But Paul adds something new: _____ is not the end! Because of his obedient, loving sacrifice, Jesus Christ _____ the doors to life after death, _____ in Heaven for all who believe in him.

Article 12: Requirements for Sin

1. Sin is primarily an _____ against God; it is _____ against God's will and his desire that we live in loving communion with him and with one another. It is a _____ of God's love for us.



2. Sin can be a _____ or _____, of course. But sin can also be a _____. _____ can be used to reject God, to tell lies, or to hurt other people through gossip, libel, or cruel remarks. _____ can also be sins—not the _____ that enter our heads unbidden and we quickly dismiss, but the _____ of revenge, lust, envy, or domination that we dwell on and keep alive.
3. Three elements determine the morality of any human act: (1) the _____, that is, the specific thing the person is choosing to do, (2) the _____ of the person doing the action, and (3) the _____ surrounding the act.
4. For an act to be morally _____, the object, intention, and circumstances must all be _____.
5. The _____ surrounding a situation can affect how _____ or _____ an act is.

Article 13: Types of Sin

1. A sin of _____ is a sin that is the _____ result of a freely chosen thought, word, or deed.
2. A sin of _____ is a sin that is the result of a _____ to do something required by God's moral law.
3. A _____ sin is a serious offense against God, one that _____ within us the virtue of charity, which helps us to love God and our neighbor. A _____ sin involves serious immoral acts, or what the Church calls "_____."
4. _____ sins are less serious than mortal sins because they do not _____ our relationship with God and our ability to love. But they do _____ these things.
5. Venial sins are closely associated with _____. _____ are the opposite of _____, which are habits of good actions. When we keep _____ sins, even venial ones, we are in danger of forming bad habits, called _____.
6. Church doctrine identifies and cautions against _____ particularly harmful sins. They are sometimes referred to as _____—meaning "most serious or influential"—because they _____ and _____ all sorts of other sinful actions, thoughts, and omissions.

Article 14: Social Sin

1. _____ is the impact that every personal sin has on other people; sin that directly attacks others' life, freedom, dignity, or rights; and the _____ of many people's sins over time, which _____ and its institutions by creating "_____."
2. _____ is the defense of _____ by ensuring that essential human needs are met and that essential _____ are protected for all people.



3. Every _____, every _____, every _____—if it wants to be just—must make preserving the _____ of each person the _____ in its planning, its laws, and its organizational structure.
4. We ensure the _____ by making sure that all persons' basic needs are met and their _____ are respected.
5. States have the _____ and _____ to defend and promote the common good; it is the _____ they exist. This authority comes from God.
6. _____ happens when a sinful attitude or action becomes so _____ that it goes unchallenged by most people. _____ can actually become a part of society's law.

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