

Chapter 7

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *Besides faithfulness to God, what was the strongest value among biblical peoples? How was this value practiced?*

Among biblical peoples, respect for and loyalty to one's family was the strongest value besides faithfulness to God. They practiced this value primarily by honoring their parents.

2. *How did Jesus' teaching on the meaning of family challenge the people of his time?*

In Jesus' time, it was strange for anyone to leave their family for any reason. Jesus shocked his listeners by explaining that all those around him were his family because anyone who does the will of God is part of his family. His mission was to gather this new family, a spiritual family, to become the Church, the Body of Christ. He taught that loyalty to God and the family of the Church was a higher value than loyalty to family related by blood.

3. *What attitudes toward their parents does the Fourth Commandment require children to have?*

The Church teaches that children should show their parents respect, gratitude, obedience, and assistance.

4. *What responsibilities do parents have for their children in obedience to the Fourth Commandment?*

As part of the Fourth Commandment, parents must provide for their children's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. They are also their children's first educators, especially in matters of faith, in which parents are the first catechists of their children. Parents must create a home that values love, respect, forgiveness, service, and faith. As children grow older, parents must give them more freedom to make their own choices and ultimately support them in whatever vocation God calls them to.

5. *What is the role of public groups and civic communities in God's plan?*

Natural law is the basis for all public groups and civic communities. These groups are called to respect God's moral order through their understanding of natural law. As part of this understanding, their role must include a commitment to respecting human freedom and promoting the common good.

6. *Explain what it means to be in the world, not of the world.*

Our call to be *in* the world, not *of* the world, means that we are to witness to our faith and God's moral law in all that we say and do in our daily lives. This means we are called to be "in the world," going about our lives among people who may not share Christian values. But we must not be "of the world" because we are called to challenge values contrary to God's plan.



7. *What responsibilities does the state have for its citizens?*

The state exists for the good of its citizens. Its fundamental obligations include ensuring that basic physical needs are met (such as food, water, shelter, and emergency medical care). But as part of meeting these needs, the state is called to promote the exercise of virtue, to support the spiritual life of its people, and to embrace the concept of the common good. It must protect basic freedoms, provide for the education of citizens, allow and promote the formation of associations and groups for social justice, provide stability and just order, and develop international laws and organizations that protect the common good of all people.

8. *What obligations do we have as faithful citizens?*

As faithful citizens, we are obliged to participate actively in our civic communities by obeying laws, paying taxes, voting, and giving our opinions on public policy. In this way, we help to build a society based on truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. Unless a law is truly unjust, we have an obligation to follow it out of respect for the greater common good. We must also support and vote for political candidates who respect natural law and promote the common good. Then we must educate ourselves about political issues and public policies and work to influence lawmakers to pass moral laws that support the good of all.

