

Chapter 10

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *Why is human life qualitatively different from the lives of all other creatures?*

Human life is qualitatively different from all other life because God creates us with a soul, our spiritual principle, and unites it with our physical body. In this way, he shares his divine image with us.

2. *How does Jesus' teaching on the sanctity of human life go beyond just condemning murder?*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that the sanctity of human life condemns not just murder but also any kind of harm to another person, physical or otherwise. His teaching forbids us from nurturing angry or vengeful thoughts that may lead to violence and abuse. Instead, Jesus commands us to love and pray for even our enemies.

3. *Give two reasons used to justify abortions. Then state the Church's arguments against them.*

- Some justify abortion by saying that the embryo is not yet a human being in the first weeks or months after conception. The Church points out that modern genetics have proven this false. From the first moment of conception, the embryo has unique human DNA.
- Some justify abortion by saying that the pregnant woman has the right to make choices about her own body, including the baby she carries. Again the Church points to scientific findings that the baby's body is separate and unique from the mother's body and that the baby's right to life is greater than the mother's right to govern her body.
- Some argue that if a baby's father abandons the baby and mother, the woman should not have to bear the burden of single parenthood. The Church points out that the right to life of the child is far greater than the inconvenience or financial burden of having the child. The Church calls society to make fathers accountable for their children, to support pregnant women, and to provide options such as adoption.

4. *When is genetic engineering morally permissible?*

Genetic engineering is morally permissible when it seeks to prevent disease or physical disabilities through gene treatment or gene therapy. These treatments are encouraged as long as they offer no significant possibility of harm to the fetus.

5. *Why is euthanasia a serious offense against the Fifth Commandment?*

Euthanasia is the direct action, or deliberate lack of action, that causes the death of someone who is disabled, sick, or dying. It is a serious violation of the Fifth Commandment against killing, because anyone who intentionally causes another person to die is guilty of murder, regardless of the motive or circumstances.

6. *Why is suicide wrong?*

Suicide, the deliberate taking of one's own life, is wrong because it is the ultimate rejection of God's gifts of hope and love. Someone who commits suicide takes over a decision that belongs to God alone: the decision of when and how one is to die. Finally, suicide is wrong because it devastates family and friends and wounds the greater human family.



7. *Why are Christians called to be peacemakers?*

Christians are called to be peacemakers by the beatitude that says peacemakers are children of God. God calls us to work tirelessly for the creation of just societies. The New Law of Christ reveals a growing awareness that violence is incompatible with love.

8. *Give four criteria that are necessary for a just war.*

To be just, a war must meet several criteria, including the following:

- There must be a just cause.
- The war must promote comparative justice (that is, the good achieved must outweigh the loss of life and societal disruption).
- The war can be waged only by a legitimate authority.
- There must be a great probability of success.
- The war must feature proportionality (that is, the expected destruction must be outweighed by the good to be achieved, and civilians must be protected at all costs).
- The war must be a last resort, after all peaceful alternatives have been exhausted.

9. *Why do we have a moral obligation to take care of our physical health?*

The Fifth Commandment, against killing, morally obliges us to take care of our physical health. Just as we are prohibited from causing others harm, we are also not to cause ourselves harm. Our health is one of the most important gifts God has given us. Our bodies are sacred and must be treated reverently.

10. *What are some of the challenges people face in maintaining a healthy lifestyle?*

Challenges that discourage us from maintaining a healthy lifestyle include ads for unhealthy fast food, pressure to exhaust ourselves with too many activities, the glamorization of unhealthy lifestyles, electronic entertainment that discourages more physical activity, and a culture that expects instant results and discounts habits that take more time to develop.

