

Unit 5 Preassessment Answer Key

1. What is a moral conscience?

- A moral conscience is the greatest guide God gives us for living the moral life. A moral conscience lives within us and is at work through all stages of moral decision-making. It helps us to recognize that a choice or action has moral consequences, applies reason in determining the most moral course of action, and makes a judgment about the moral correctness of a given choice or action.

2. Identify five gifts God has given us to support Christian moral decision-making.

- God has given us grace, the Cardinal Virtues, the Theological Virtues, the Seven Sacraments, and a moral conscience to support Christian moral decision-making.

3. Name and describe the meaning of five of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Any combination of five descriptions from the list below:

- Wisdom allows us to see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and to share that insight with others.
- Understanding gives us the ability to know how a person must live their life as a follower of Christ.
- Counsel, also known as right judgment, gives us the ability to know the difference between right and wrong and the ability to choose what is right.
- Courage, also known as fortitude, helps us to take risks and to overcome our fears.
- Knowledge gives us the ability to understand the meaning and message of Christ.
- Piety, also known as reverence, gives us a deep sense of respect for God and trust in God.
- Fear of the Lord, or wonder and awe, allows us to be aware of God's majesty, unlimited power, and desire for justice.

4. Identify and describe the significance of the four Cardinal Virtues in making moral choices.

- The four Cardinal Virtues are prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude. These virtues are significant in making moral choices because they guide our will, allowing us to control our passions and to make good moral choices.

5. Identify and describe the meaning of the three Theological Virtues.

- The three Theological Virtues are faith, hope, and love. These three virtues serve as the foundation in which all human virtues are based. They are also the source of energy for perfecting our relationship with God, allowing us to discover a deeper knowledge and a more meaningful relationship with the Holy Trinity. We tap into the divine energy of the three Theological Virtues through our faith.

6. Identify three sacraments, and describe how each is an avenue of grace for moral decision-making.

Any combination of three descriptions from the list below:

- Baptism presents us with the sanctifying grace we need to turn our lives toward God and be faithful in following his Commandments. It is the beginning of our moral journey as Christians.
- Confirmation perfects the grace we receive in Baptism by strengthening our bond with the Church and enriching our lives with the Holy Spirit. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit grow during Confirmation and help us to live morally among others.



- The Eucharist nourishes and strengthens us to resist temptation, so that we might make the necessary sacrifices to share in Christ's love. During the Eucharist, we present God with our efforts to live morally and offer that energy to him.
- Penance and Reconciliation gives us the grace of God's forgiveness. This sacrament cleanses us of sin and releases us from shame and guilt.
- Anointing of the Sick unites our suffering with the grace of God through Christ's Passion. This sacrament gives us strength and encourages us to continue to make good moral choices despite illness or physical suffering.
- Matrimony gives husband and wife the grace needed to live out the vocation of marriage. This sacrament helps husband and wife to make moral choices in their relationship with each other.
- Holy Orders gives bishops, priests, and deacons the grace they need to live out their vocation virtuously. This sacrament reminds recipients that they must act as an example of moral living, and guide others along a similar path.

7. In two sentences, describe two types of grace.

Any combination of two descriptions from the list below:

- Sanctifying grace frees us from sin, makes us holy, and allows us to share in God's life and love.
- Actual grace is God's presence and intervention in our lives, either preparing us for conversion or aiding us in our sanctification.
- Sacramental graces are those special gifts we receive through the Seven Sacraments.
- Special graces, or charisms, are gifts given to us to help build up the Church.

8. Identify two practical virtues that can strengthen Christian discipleship in daily living.

- Compassion, honesty, chastity, caring for the Earth, caring for our bodies, expressing gratitude, and respecting life are a few examples of practical virtues that can strengthen Christian discipleship in daily living.

9. Describe in several sentences a story of forgiveness from the New Testament.

- *Answers will vary.*

10. Identify five important steps in a moral decision-making process when one faces a moral dilemma.

- The five important steps in a moral decision-making process when one faces a moral dilemma follow the acronym FACTS. First, one must **find** the facts or identify the three elements of a moral decision: object, intention, and circumstances. Then one must **assess** the alternatives by considering all possible actions that could be taken in responding to the given situation. Then one must **consider** the consequences by evaluating all alternative actions and their potential effect on relationships with God, others, and oneself. Then one must **think** about God's teachings by applying God's Word to the situation. Finally, one must **seek** spiritual support by asking the Holy Spirit for the necessary gifts and by seeking the wisdom of spiritual mentors.

