

Chapter 12

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What is the primary characteristic of being a disciple of Jesus Christ?*

The primary characteristic of being a disciple of Jesus Christ is having “love for one another” (John 13:35). The New Law of Christ is a Law of Love.

2. *Describe four different opportunities that Christians have to live their baptismal vocation.*

Christians have many opportunities to live their baptismal vocation:

- through a meaningful job, in which we share God's love with the world by doing work that contributes to the common good
- through volunteer work that addresses special needs
- through service to the Church in a variety of ministries, whether volunteer or paid
- through missionary activity in foreign lands, working with people who have little knowledge or experience of Christ or Christianity
- through religious movements in the Church that encourage our call to share God's love with others

3. *Define grace.*

Grace is the free and undeserved gift of God's loving and active presence in the universe and in our lives, empowering us to respond to his call and to live as his adopted sons and daughters. Grace restores our loving communion with the Holy Trinity, lost through sin.

4. *Name three kinds of grace, and give an example for each kind.*

The kinds of grace include sanctifying grace, actual grace, sacramental grace, and special grace. Sanctifying grace is received at Baptism and is continually at work healing our wounded soul and making us whole again. Actual grace is the work of God in our lives. A sacramental grace is a special gift we receive in the Seven Sacraments. Special graces, also called charisms, are graces God gives to us to help build up the Church. (A broad range of examples are possible. The students may list suitable examples from their own lives or from the examples given in the reading.)

5. *What are the four Cardinal Virtues, and why are they important for living a moral life?*

The four Cardinal Virtues are prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. The Cardinal Virtues are essential for full Christian living because all the other human virtues depend on these four. Developing these virtues helps us to develop moral character, meaning that we do the right thing even when it is difficult.

6. *How are the Theological Virtues different from the Cardinal Virtues?*

The Cardinal Virtues are human virtues, habits that guide us in choosing good moral actions. The Theological Virtues (faith, hope, and love) are the foundation of all human virtues and provide the means for us to perfect our relationship with God. Faith, hope, and love are Theological Virtues because they draw us into deeper knowledge of, and relationship with, the Trinity.



7. *What does it mean to say that “the moral life is spiritual worship” (CCC, number 2031)?*

This statement from the *Catechism* means that we worship God not only through our liturgical celebrations but also through virtuous living. Spiritual worship means offering God our praise, adoration, and sacrifice by living his Law of Love in our everyday life.

8. *Choose three sacraments and explain how the graces of each sacrament are connected to living a moral life.*

(The students may choose and explain any three of the Seven Sacraments and their graces, as outlined in article 51, p. 347.)

9. *Why is a well-formed conscience important in Christian morality?*

A well-formed conscience is part of all stages of moral decision-making. It leads us to make the right moral judgment, one that is consistent with the Ten Commandments, and it helps us to be principled and honest. Our conscience helps us to recognize and weigh the moral consequences of a particular choice or action. It also helps us judge the most moral action to take in a particular situation. Finally, our conscience helps us to judge the moral correctness of a specific action, whether it is one we have yet to take or one we have already performed.

10. *Describe three things you can do to form your conscience.*

- We can study Church doctrine to learn the moral truth revealed by God.
- We can read and reflect on the Word of God in Scripture.
- We can spend time examining moral choices we have made, perhaps daily or weekly.
- We can read about the lives of the saints and other holy people.
- We can regularly receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

(The students may offer personal examples as well.)

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