

Living the Moral Life

Chapter 38 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will understand that the natural law is part of our human nature that gives us an ability to know through human reason what is good.
- The participants will examine the gift of free will and how it enables us to freely choose to love God or turn away from him in sin.
- The participants will explore the theological and cardinal virtues and how they can help us to do the right thing.

Content Summary

1. God wants us to draw nearer to him in this life and to live happily with him forever in eternity.
2. The virtues and other supports from God help us to live morally and happily.
3. Both the Old Law and the New Law help us to form our conscience and use our free will in just and right ways.
4. God's gift of the natural law is placed deep within us, and we can know this law through our human reason.
5. The Sermon on the Mount is the ultimate expression of the New Law.
6. Virtues are habits we develop to help us consistently do the right thing.
7. The cardinal virtues are hinges on which other virtues hang: patience, prudence, temperance, and fortitude.
8. The theological virtues have their source in God and in God's energy within us. They are the virtues of faith, hope, and love.

(All summary points are taken from *The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers, Second Edition*. Copyright © 2014 by Saint Mary's Press. All rights reserved.)

