

# Week 34

Paragraphs 1699–1782



# THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

*f* faith.<sup>82</sup> By “analogy of faith” we mean the

## How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

### LIVING MORALLY

Jesus came to set us free from sin so we could live in eternal beatitude in heaven. Because we have been redeemed and God has poured out his Holy Spirit into us, we can live morally. We have been given an intellect, so we can know the good, the true, and the beautiful. Because we are rational beings with wills, we have the freedom to choose life or death.

#### Keep in Mind

- Jesus reveals who we are, where we are going, and how to get there.
- The Beatitudes reveal that we are made to know, love, and serve God in this world and be happy with him forever in heaven.
- True happiness is not pleasure or comfort but “beatitude,” the ultimate good to which God calls us.
- We have *intellect*, the ability to understand, know, and evaluate.
- We have *free will*, the freedom to choose between good and evil.
- Freedom is not the ability to do whatever we want but to do what we ought.
- While certain factors reduce culpability, freedom makes us moral subjects who have responsibility for our choices.
- Sin darkens our intellect and weakens our will; the more we choose sin, the more enslaved we become.
- Moral laws are guideposts that enable us to live with freedom and joy.
- The morality of an act is based upon three objective elements: “the object chosen” (the act itself), “the intention,” and “the circumstances of the action” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1750).
- All three must be morally good.



St. Paul in Prison  
by Rembrandt van Rijn (1627)

#### Dive Deeper

Rembrandt painted this memorable work of art of St. Paul writing in prison. The Church reminds us that the real threat to human freedom is not physical chains used in prisons, but sin. In Christ, St. Paul is free (see CCC 1740).

Freedom is choosing to do what we *ought* to do, not doing whatever we want. How does this idea change your perception of freedom? How does our culture regard true freedom versus false freedom?

- “The end does not justify the means” that “one may not do evil so that good may result from it” (CCC 1753, 1756).
- If the object chosen is immoral, good intentions and circumstances cannot make the act moral.
- An immoral intention or circumstance can make the whole act immoral.
- Our passions are neutral, but our choices develop them toward vice or virtue.
- “The most fundamental passion is love . . . to will the good of another” (CCC 1765–1766).
- The goal is for our intellect to apprehend the true good; our will to choose it; and our passions to desire it.
- Conscience is “a judgment of reason” to determine right and wrong (CCC 1778).
- We are obligated to form our consciences so they will not be malformed, numbed, or deafened.
- The grace of God gives us the capacity to do what we ought to do.

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

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## Take It to Prayer

God our Father, the world offers so many alternatives to your truth. Please help us to choose you and live moral lives. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

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*The Catechism in a Year* is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companions* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.