

Journey of Faith



Living Like Jesus Today

Lisa was speaking to the class. "One of my friends at soccer says that Catholics have too many rules and her religion doesn't. Mrs. Evans, why do Catholics like rules?"

Mrs. Evans smiled. "Some people do think we have a lot of rules. But most of them are the same as other Christians have because they're based on what Jesus said or what's in the Bible. And just like rules at home and in school, they make our lives better. Let's take the Ten Commandments."





The Ten Commandments

The **Ten Commandments** are the rules God gave Moses in the Old Testament. These ten rules explain how God wants us to live. The first three tell us how to love God. The other seven tell us how to love each other.

1. You will not worship anything or anyone but God.
2. You will only use God's name with respect.
3. You will keep Sunday, God's day, holy.
4. You will respect and listen to your father and mother.
5. You will not kill.
6. You will be loyal to your husband or wife.
7. You will not steal.
8. You will not tell lies.
9. You will not be jealous of other people's possessions.
10. You will not be jealous of other people's family members.

Adapted from Exodus 20:1-17

The Two Great Commandments

Jesus was born and raised in the Jewish faith. He knew the Hebrew Scriptures well. He knew the Ten Commandments and the other laws and rules in the Old Testament. But Jesus saw these laws were getting mixed up by some of the Jewish leaders. They were making the laws about *looking* holy, not about loving God and trying to *be* holy. Jesus taught that laws are good, but we have to live laws with our hearts.

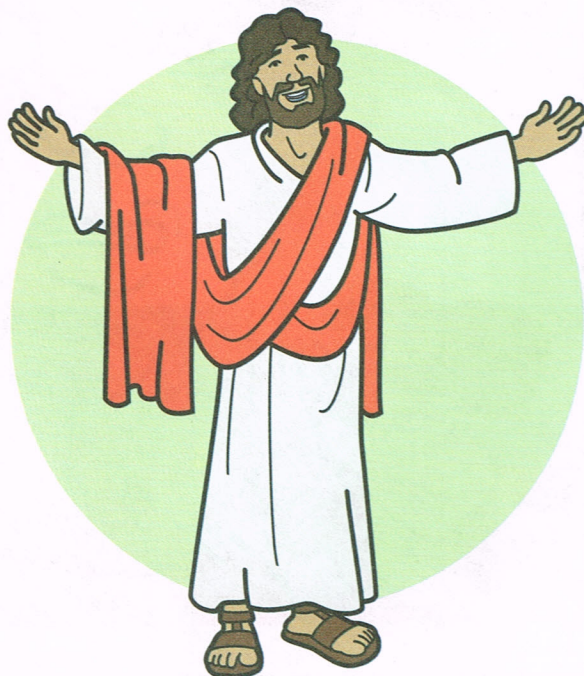
Jesus gave us two new commandments to make sure loving God and each other were always at the heart of our laws. (See Matthew 22:37-39, Mark 12:30-31, Luke 10:27)

1. "You shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength" (Deuteronomy 6:5).
2. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18).



How do you show God you love him by following the Ten Commandments?

How do you show others you love them by following the Ten Commandments?



If we know and believe in Jesus, it shows in everything we do. We are like mirrors that reflect his ways. We listen to Jesus, learn from Jesus, and follow Jesus' example.

When we live our lives like Jesus, we become stronger. When we put God first, we can stand up to people who want us to do bad or wrong things.

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock."

Matthew 7:24–25

Your Conscience Is Your Guide

How do you know when you are making the right decision? What tells you if something is right or wrong?



Sometimes you know because your parents or other adults you trust have told you. Sometimes Jesus, through the Church, helps to explain why something is right or wrong to us. Our ability to recognize if something is right or wrong, with the help of the Church, trusted adults, and the Holy Spirit, is called **conscience**. Your conscience is the Holy Spirit speaking to your heart, helping you to make the right decisions.



How do you figure out what the right thing to do is?

The Church Helps Us

Jesus told his apostles to pay attention to everything he taught them. Before he went back to heaven, Jesus gave the apostles and the people they would choose to lead after them, the authority to speak and act in his name. The apostles used Jesus' teachings and example to lead the Church.

Today, the pope, bishops, and priests continue the work of the apostles. Jesus and the Holy Spirit guide them. The world has changed a lot since Jesus' time. That's why the pope and the bishops use Jesus' teachings to help us live like Jesus in a different kind of place. The teachings of the pope and the bishops should guide our decisions and remove confusion about what is right and wrong.



And just like Jesus taught us, everything we do should be done with love for God and each other!



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, IN ORDER

Put the following commandments in order by writing a number 1–10 on the line next to it.

- _____ Don't lie.
- _____ Don't steal.
- _____ Don't use God's name in a sloppy or bad way.
- _____ Keep God's day holy.
- _____ Be loyal to your spouse.
- _____ Don't be jealous of other people's stuff.
- _____ Don't be jealous of other people's family members.
- _____ Obey your mother and father.
- _____ Make sure that you don't love anything more than God.
- _____ Don't kill.



In Short



- Jesus is our example for living a moral life.
- We should reflect on our choices.
- We have to form our conscience.

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