

Study Guide: 10 Commandments, Gravity of Sin

To study the topic of the 10 Commandments and the levels of gravity of sin, consult the Scripture passages listed and the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. How is the divine image present in every human person? What are the moral implications of that divine image? (CCC 1702-1706)
2. How does the New Testament describe the way God wants to satisfy the human desire for happiness? (CCC 1720-1722)
3. How does the promise of happiness from God affect moral choices? (CCC 1723-1724)
4. How does the Catechism define *freedom*? If man is free, how does responsibility enter into the picture? (CCC 1731-1734)
5. What circumstances can limit responsibility or even remove it? Is a person responsible for an act that is directly willed? (CCC 1735-1737)
6. If man has the right to exercise freedom (1738), what are some of the threats to exercising that freedom properly? How are the commands of God not a threat to freedom, but a help to it? (CCC 1740-1742)
7. Compare the list of commandments on the pages immediately preceding CCC 2052. How is the traditional Catholic listing of the 10 commandments similar to and different from the list you may have learned? Why do Catholics number them as they do? (CCC 2066)
8. When the rich young man asked Jesus what he could do to gain eternal life, what two answers did Jesus give him? Did Jesus do away with the 10 Commandments? (CCC 2052-2055)

9. In what ways are the 10 Commandments liberating? What is the relationship between these commandments and the Covenant? (CCC 2056-2063)

10. What role do the 10 Commandments have in the Church's teaching? (CCC 2064-2068)

11. In what sense are the 10 Commandments a unified whole? Is it possible to break one but keep the others? (CCC 2069)

12. What is the relationship between the 10 Commandments revealed by God and the natural law? If the Commandments were not revealed, how would we know them? (CCC 2070-2071)

13. Why is the obligation to keep the Commandments *grave*, or serious? What does it mean to say that? (CCC 12072-2073)

14. How many different kinds of sins are there? How might we distinguish one kind from another? (CCC 1852-1853)

15. What is a *mortal sin*? Why is it so serious? What does it take to commit one? What does it do to the person who commits it? (CCC 1855-1861)

16. What is a venial sin? What are its effects? Is it okay to commit venial sin? (CCC1863)

17. Look up Mt. 12:32. What happens to the person who refuses God's mercy? (CCC 1864)