

Study Guide: Formation of Conscience

To study the topic of the formation of conscience, 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. What is the *moral conscience*? Can you figure out from the explanation why the conscience is called *moral*? (CCC 1777-1778)
2. What does conscience include? Is conscience a *judgment* as to the truth or a *decision* about what is right or wrong? (What's the difference?) (CCC 1778-1781)
3. What right does a person have to act in accord with his conscience? (CCC 1782)
4. With every right goes a corresponding duty. What duty does the person have regarding conscience? (CCC 1783-1785, 1790)
5. How can you be assured that you are acting in accord with a well-formed conscience? What are some of the "rules of thumb" the Catechism gives? (CCC 1786-1789)
6. Can conscience ever be wrong? If a person acts in accord with an erroneous conscience, is he guilty for the wrong he does? What is "invincible ignorance"? (CCC 1790-1793)
7. What does the morality of an act depend on? Define these terms. (CCC 1750-1754)

8. What is necessary to make an act *good*? Is it ever possible for an act to be intrinsically (that is, in and of itself, or by its very nature) *evil*? (CCC 1755-1756)

9. How would the Catechism address the morality of going to bed with someone you're not married to because "we love each other, and love is good"? (CCC 1753, 1756)