

2023-2024

RCIA #12

12/4/23

Part II: The Commandments (Chapter 15)

The Two Great Commandments

- Faith Proven by Deeds
- Accenting the Positive

The Two Great Commandments of Jesus Christ

- A lawyer asked Jesus “Which is the greatest commandment of the Law”
 - **Jesus replied** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all you soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets” (**Mt 22:37-40; Du 6:5; Lev 19:18**)

The Two Great Commandments (Cont)

- **Love** and **sacrifice** are synonymous
- God loves us and has given us His laws of love to make us happy here and in Heaven
- But there are consequences for disobeying His laws (Sin)
- Jesus summed up **God's Law** in these two commandments we just discussed:
 - *Love God with your whole heart, soul, mind and love your neighbor as yourself*

The Two Great Commandments

- Types of law:
 - **Physical law** – laws of nature (gravity)
 - **Natural law** – our nature as a human person (conscience)
 - **Divine Positive law** - the prescriptions that God has communicated to man

The Two Great Commandments (Cont)

- **Divine Positive law**

- The sum total of all the prescriptions that God has communicated to man via supernatural revelation
 - **Sacred Scriptures**
 - **Sacred Tradition**
- It governs acts that are good or evil because God has so designated them as such
 - Some acts are intrinsically evil

The Two Great Commandments (Cont)

- ▶ **Moral law** – Norm of human conduct from God (revealed or known by reason) and is binding on our conscience
 - For a **moral act** to be good the following must be good:
 - **Object**
 - **Intended end**
 - **Circumstances**

The Two Great Commandments (Cont)

- Accenting the Positive
 - The 10 Commandments contain a list of our principal duties **to God** and **to neighbor**
 - 1 through 3 are **to God**
 - 4 through 10 are **to our neighbor**
 - All of God's laws are aimed at our happiness
 - When we obey His Commandments, we live a life of virtue

The Decalogue

- What is a commandment?
 - An authoritative mandate; edict; order, law
- What does “Decalogue” mean?
 - “**Ten words**” (phrases) which sum up the Law given by God to the people of Israel in the context of the Covenant mediated by Moses
 - They contain the fundamental duties of man toward God and toward his neighbor
 - **First three** - love God
 - **The other seven** - love neighbor

The Two Great Commandments (Cont)

- We show our love for God and neighbor by living out the:

Seven Corporal Works of Mercy (trifold handout)

- Feeding the hungry
- Giving drink to the thirsty
- Clothing the naked
- Sheltering the homeless
- Visiting the sick
- Visiting the imprisoned
- Burying the dead

The Two Great Commandments (Cont)

- **The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy (trifold handout)**
 - Admonishing the sinner
 - Instructing the ignorant
 - Counseling the doubtful
 - Comforting the sorrowful
 - Forgiving all injustices
 - Bearing wrongs patiently
 - Praying for the living and the dead
- The circle of our prayers must encompass the world as does the love of God

The Decalogue (Cont)

- What importance does the Church give to the Decalogue?
 - The Church, in fidelity to Scripture and to the example of Christ, acknowledges the primordial importance and significance of the Decalogue. Christians are obliged to keep it
- Is it possible to keep the Decalogue?
 - Yes, because Christ without whom we can do nothing enables us to keep it with the gift of his Spirit and his grace

The 10 Commandments

- The listing of the 10 Commandments can be found in:
 - [Exodus 20:1-17](#),
 - [Deuteronomy 5:4-21](#)

The 10 Commandments

- I. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me**
- II. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain**
- III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day**
- IV. Honor thy father and thy mother
- V. Thou shalt not kill
- VI. Thou shalt not commit adultery
- VII. Thou shalt not steal
- VIII. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
- IX. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods

Part II: The Commandments

(Chapter 16)

- The First Commandment of God
 - Our First Duty
 - Sins Against Faith
 - Hope and Love
 - Sacrilege and Superstition

The First Commandment of God

- “I am the Lord your God; you shall not have false gods before me”
 - We are called to give honor and glory to God
 - An act of faith is an act of worship
 - We make an act of faith by expressing our belief in God
 - We need to examine our conscience daily

The First Commandment of God (Cont)

- Sins against the faith
 - **Apostasy** – the abandonment of the faith
 - laxity or laziness toward the faith
 - intellectual pride where we know better than the church
 - **Heresy** – the rejection of one or more of the truths (dogmas) taught by the Church

The First Commandment of God (Cont)

- Hope and love – like a child's belief in a parent
 - Sins against hope
 - Presumption – assuming that no matter what we do we will be saved
 - Despair – believing that God cannot forgive our sins
- God resides in the **will** not in the emotions

The First Commandment of God (Cont)

- Sacrilege and Superstition
 - We can lose our faith unless we live it
 - We must avoid bad company and temptations
 - We need a well-formed conscience
 - We must not commit sacrilege against sacred persons, places or things
 - We must avoid superstitions
 - We should pray through the Blessed Mother and the Saints

The First Commandment of God (Cont)

- We are called to love as God loves which means loving all persons.
- We must:
 - Be charitable – love all
 - Avoid scandal – which would bring another to sin
 - Avoid hatred – willing that evil befall another
 - Avoid envy – desire to have what others have
 - Avoid sloth – spiritual laziness
- A good simple definition of love:
 - **To will the good of the other**

Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Early Heresies

- Judaizers – said had to be a Jew to be a Christian
- Gnostics – secret knowledge
- Dualism – two gods: one good, one bad
- Montanism – end of the world was imminent
- Manicheism – two equal gods run everything
- Arianism – Jesus was not divine
- Nestorianism – Mary was not the mother of God
- Apollinarianism – Jesus had an incomplete human nature

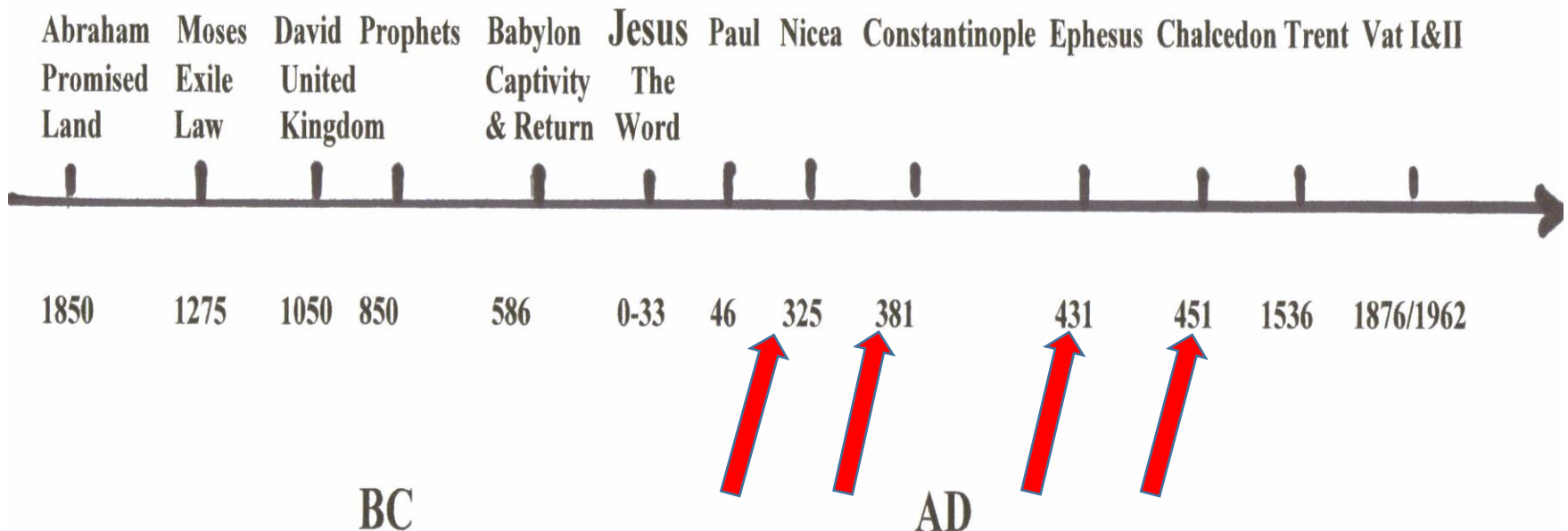
Introduction and Overview (Cont)

- Early Councils

- **Jerusalem** – 50 A.D. - *Gentiles can become Christians without becoming Jews – rejected Judaizers*
- **Nicaea** – 325 A.D. - *Christ is the same as God – rejected Arianism*
- **Constantinople** – 381 A.D. – *HS is the same as God and Jesus – rejected revised Arianism*
- **Ephesus** – 431 A.D. – *Blessed Mother was the Mother of God – rejected Nestorianism*
- **Chalcedon** – 451 A.D. – *Christ possessed two natures: human and divine – rejected Apollinarianism*

God's Divine Plan

God's Divine Plan of Salvation History – (*Economea*)



Part II: The Commandments

(Chapter 17)

The Second and Third Commandments of God

- Holy Is His Name
- “Bless and Do Not Curse”
- Why Sunday Mass?

The Second Commandment of God

- “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain”
 - Holy is His name
 - **YHWH** and Moses, importance of a name
 - Taking His name in vain:
 - Profanity
 - Taking an invalid oath (false swearing)
 - Breaking or rashly making a vow (Religious and Evangelical Councils of poverty, chastity and obedience)
 - Cursing
 - Blasphemy

The Second Commandment of God (Cont)

- Bless and do not curse
 - Everything God has created is “good”
 - To curse is to wish an evil upon some person, place or thing
 - It is always a sin to wish evil on another
- Blasphemy is when we speak of God, the saints or holy objects in a spirit of contempt or vicious spirit

The Second Commandment of God (Cont)

- The other (positive) side of this commandment:
 - Honor God's name in vows or oaths
 - Show of respect for his name by bowing the head or tipping the hat at his name
 - Responding with "Blessed be God," or the Name of Jesus when others abuse His name
 - Rejoicing at the hearing of His name in liturgies: *Gloria, Sanctus, Glory be to the Father*

The Third Commandment of God

- “You shall keep holy the Sabbath day”
 - Why the Sunday Mass?
 - Old Testament – Saturday Sabbath
 - Given to Moses by God
 - Sunset Friday to Sunset Saturday
 - New Testament – Sunday
 - Sacred Tradition
 - Celebrates the Resurrection

The Third Commandment of God (Cont)

- How to keep it holy
 - Physically and mentally attend the entire Mass
 - **Six days** contains **144 hours** for all our activities. Giving **one hour** on the seventh day to worship God is not much of an obligation (leaving 23 for rest and recreation)

The Third Commandment of God (Cont)

- The key sin against this commandment is missing the Mass or doing servile work on Sunday
- The questions we should ask include:
 - Is the work more mental than physical?
 - Is the work genuinely necessary?
 - Could it be done on another day?
- If unsure discuss it with a priest