

Study Guide: Catholic Social Teaching

To study the topic on the Church's teaching about Catholic social teaching, consult the paragraphs indicated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC). **Note that the "In Brief" sections may help answer the questions below.**

1. The Catechism asserts that "love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God." Why does it say that? (CCC 1878)
2. How does the Catechism define a society? Does the human person exist for society, or does society exist for the human person (in the Church's view)? (CCC 1879-1881; 1929)
3. Why are some societies, like the family and the state, *necessary* to the person? In connection with voluntary societies, how does the catechism define *socialization*? (CCC 1882)
4. What is the "principle of subsidiarity" (a phrase coined by Pius XI)? Can you give an example of how it works from your own experience? (CCC 1883-1885)
5. If the ultimate vocation of the human person is union with God, how must societies conduct themselves? (CCC 1886-1889)
6. When does the Christian owe obedience to secular authority—and when is the Christian *not* bound in conscience to obey this authority? (CCC 1897-1904)
7. How does the Church understand the meaning of the *common good*? (CCC 1905-1906)
8. What are the three essential elements of the common good? (CCC 1907-1910)

9. What does a “universal common good” mean? What does it lead to (CCC 1911)

10. What does the Catechism recommend with respect to participation in political and public life? (CCC 1913-1917)

11. What does respect for the human person entail on the part of society? Why? (CCC 1930)

12. What is liberation (as the Gospel speaks of it) incompatible with? (CCC 1933)

13. On what does the dignity of men essentially rest? What therefore must be eradicated? (CCC 1934-1935)

14. Why does the Catechism encourage generosity to others? (CCC 1936-1937)

15. What are some examples of sinful inequalities? (CCC 1938)

16. The term *solidarity* is a fairly new one in Church teaching, but it has an old meaning. What does it mean? What are some ways of manifesting it? (CCC 1939-1942)