

Study Guide: Original Sin, Formation of Conscience

To study the topic of the Communion of human nature and destiny, original sin, and 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 sin? How do we know that sin is not merely a "mistake" or a "psychological flaw" or "character weakness"? (CCC 386-387)
2. What is "original" sin? How do we know? (CCC 389-390, 396)
3. What was the nature of the sin Adam and Eve committed? (CCC 397-398)
4. What was the consequence for mankind of that sin? Is this the same thing as saying that human nature is no longer good, that it is corrupt? (CCC 399-403, 405)
5. Why does the Catechism call original sin a only in an analogical sense? What does that expression mean? (CCC 404-405)
6. How is the Catholic doctrine of original sin different from both the Pelagian teaching and the teaching of the Protestant reformers? (CCC 406)
7. The Catechism states that "Ignorance of the fact that man has a wounded nature inclined to evil gives rise to serious errors in the areas of education, politics, social action and morals." How so? (CCC 407-409)
8. What is the "proto-evangelium"? Where is it contained in Scripture? What does it have to do with the doctrine of original sin? (CCC 410-412)

-
9. What is the *moral conscience*? Can you figure out from the explanation why the conscience is called *moral*? (CCC 1777-1778)

 10. 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)

 11. What right does a person have to act in accord with his conscience? (CCC 1782)

 12. With every right goes a corresponding duty. What duty does the person have regarding conscience? (CCC 1783-1785, 1790)

 13. 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)

 14. 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)

 15. What does the morality of an act depend on? Define these terms. (CCC 1750-1754)

 16. 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)

 17. 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)