Newman SSU Teaching: Living in Love - Morals

2017-04-18

# Principles

## For the nature of Love

### God is Love itself.

### Love wants & affirms good; the best love wants & affirms the best good.

### Love and good have staying power – they endure to the end.

“to the end [Jesus] loved them.” (Joh 13:1). Love looks to the long run – to eternity “Love never ends.” (1Co 13)

### God’s love is revealed in His Word – both eternal Son and Holy Scripture.

### To Love with divine Love is to obey God.

### Whatever we do without God is done without Love.

### To knowingly choose a lesser good is to lessen Love = wrong, sinful.

## Nature & grace

### God’s nature is supernatural and eternal.

### Human nature was made from nothing and is totally dependent on God.

### When we cooperate with God we participate in divinity.

### To be docile is to cooperate with God easily.

### God can command us what is only possible for us when we are helped by His grace.

## Judgment & conscience

### God is the only perfect and just judge.

### God reserves all final judgment to Himself. We have no right to exercise judgment beyond what God commissions, even on ourselves.

### Our conscience is only as good as it is well-informed. It is our moral duty to strive for this.

### Jesus Christ gave the Church moral and teaching authority.

## Power of Choice

### By faith we have authority to become God’s children (Joh 1:12).

### We are begotten as God’s child by our inclusion in Christ God’s true Son by baptism; our power to act rightly is only by His “newness of Life” (Rom 6:4)

### Freedom comes by Truth, Justice, and God’s almighty gracious act

#### Joh 8:32 “The truth will make you free.”

#### Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you.

#### Rom 8:1-4 There is now therefore no damnation to them that are in Christ Jesus: that walk not according to the flesh. 2 For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has delivered me from the law of sin and of death. 3 For that which was impossible to the Law, in that it was weakened by the flesh: God sending his son in the similitude of the flesh of sin, even of sin damned sin in the flesh, 4 that the justification of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

## Infused Grace

### Rom 3:23-26 For all have sinned: and do need the glory of God. 24 Justified gratis by his grace, by the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God has proposed a propitiation, by faith in his blood, to the showing of his justice, for the remission of former sins, 26 in the toleration of God, to the showing of his justice in this time: that he may be just, and justifying him that is of the faith of Jesus Christ.

### Eph 2:1-7 And you when you were dead by your offenses and sins [...] 4 but God (which is rich in mercy) for his exceeding charity wherewith he loved us, 5 even when we were dead by sins, enlivened us together in Christ, (by whose grace you are saved,) 6 and raised us up with him, and has made us sit with him in the celestials in Christ Jesus, 7 that he might show in the worlds succeeding, the abundant riches of his grace, in bounty upon us in Christ Jesus.

## Our best friend, advocate, example to follow: Jesus Christ

### Jesus is fully human and fully divine. He knows both personally and intimately.

### He is the necessary and only mediator between us and God.

### What our weakened sinful flesh has been unable to do, this Jesus Christ does for us.

### He gave us an example to follow.

### He is established as King over the realm in which we live.

# Love

## Love wants the best.

God is the best.

God wants the best for everyone

God so Loved the universe

## We creatures love

Our own love by itself is not capable of what divine love demands

## #3 The Sacrifice of Sanctity

Much later, when I understood what perfection was, I realised that to become a saint one must suffer a great deal, always seek what is best, and forget oneself. I understood that there were many kinds of of sanctity and that each soul was free to respond to the approaches of Our Lord and to do little or much for Him — in other words,to make a choice among the sacrifices He demands. Then, just as when I was a child, I cried: “My God, I choose all. **I do not want to be a saint by halves.** I am not afraid to suffer for You. I fear only one thing — that I should keep my own will. So take it, for I choose all that You will.” — St. Thérèse of Lisieux, *The Story of a Soul*. (New York: Double Day, 2001) 9.

## The Communion of Love

### Christ, God (=love) Incarnate: union of creature and creator

Baptism: united with Christ

Eucharist: communion

# Right living

# Kingdom of God

## Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...