

# God's Salvation: Law and Grace

*Catechism of the Catholic Church  
Part III, Section 1, Chapter 3*

Parent Session for Sacramental Preparation

# The Big Question

*How does God help us live a good life?*

**The Law  
Shows the Path**

*Guidance*



**We Cannot  
Follow Alone**

*Our Need*



**Grace Makes  
Holiness Possible**

*The Solution*



**The Church  
Guides Us**

*Our Support*

# The Moral Law

*God's fatherly instruction showing us the path to happiness and holiness*

## Natural Law

Written on every human heart. Basic moral truths all people can know through reason.

## Old Law

The Ten Commandments. External commands that prepared for the coming of Christ.

## New Law

The Law of the Gospel. The grace of the Holy Spirit working through faith and love.

# Old Law → New Law

## Old Law

- External commands
- “You shall not..”
- Written on stone
- Prepared for Christ
- Shows what is wrong

## New Law

- Interior transformation
- “Love as I have loved you”
- Written on hearts
- Fulfilled in Christ
- Gives power to do right

# Grace: God's Gift

*We don't earn God's love by being good.  
We receive God's love, and that love transforms us to be good.*

## Sanctifying Grace

The permanent gift that makes us holy. Received at Baptism. Makes us children of God.

## Actual Grace

God's help in specific moments to do good and avoid evil. Given as needed throughout life.

## Sacramental Grace

Special help given through each sacrament, fitting us for that sacrament's purpose.

# Justification: Made Right with God

*What happens when God justifies us? (CCC 1987-1995)*

1

## Forgiveness

Our sins are washed away completely

2

## Transformation

We are made inwardly holy, not just declared righteous

3

## Adoption

We become children of God, able to call Him Father

4

## Ongoing

Justification grows as we cooperate with grace

# The Church, Mother and Teacher

## The Precepts of the Church

*The minimum requirements for growth in love of God and neighbor*

- 1 Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- 2 Confess sins at least once a year
- 3 Receive the Eucharist at least during the Easter season
- 4 Observe days of fasting and abstinence
- 5 Provide for the material needs of the Church

*These are the minimum — the floor, not the ceiling — for a life of growing holiness.*

# Questions for Reflection

1

How do you balance teaching your children rules with helping them develop an interior desire to do good?

2

How do you help your children understand that God's love isn't something they earn by good behavior?

3

What role do the sacraments play in your family's spiritual life?

*Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to His call and to live as His children.*

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1996

Key References: CCC 1949-2051