

## Catechism of the Catholic Church

ARTICLE 6 - <https://www.catholicdoors.com/catechis/cat1691.htm>  
[https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_INDEX.HTM](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM)

### MORAL CONSCIENCE

1776 "Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, **ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil**, sounds in his heart at the right moment.... For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God.... His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths." [GS 16]

#### I. THE JUDGMENT OF CONSCIENCE

1777 Moral conscience, [Cf. Rom 2:14-16] present at the heart of the person, enjoins him at the appropriate moment to **do good and to avoid evil**. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil. [Cf. Rom 1:32] It bears witness to the authority of truth in reference to the supreme Good to which the human person is drawn, and it welcomes the commandments. When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking.

1782 **Man has the right to act in conscience and in freedom so as personally to make moral decisions. "He must not be forced to act contrary to his conscience. Nor must he be prevented from acting according to his conscience, especially in religious matters."**

#### III. TO CHOOSE IN ACCORD WITH CONSCIENCE

1789 Some rules apply in every case:

**- One may never do evil so that good may result from it;**

#### IV. ERRONEOUS JUDGMENT

1790 **A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience. If he were deliberately to act against it, he would condemn himself.** Yet it can happen that moral conscience remains in ignorance and makes erroneous judgments about acts to be performed or already committed.

#### IN BRIEF

1800 **A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his conscience**