

## SACRAMENTS - SESSION SIXTEEN - RECONCILIATION - CONSCIENCE FORMATION

Our young people will appreciate conscience formation as essential to the sacrament of reconciliation and make it their own task.

Parents: One of the most important tasks in your ministry is teaching your children the skills needed to decide what is right from wrong. Begin with the following principles:

- We get our data on what is good or bad from six distinct sources.
- Each has its own criteria or standards
- One must not only ask: is this right or wrong? One must also ask: "From what perspective is it right or wrong?"
- As followers of Jesus, we have our own standards for right and wrong which are very different from those of the world
- Consequently, you - as parents - who have 90% more impact on children than either the church or the school are the only ones who can teach your children that the most useless moral norm is "If it makes sense to you - Go for it." Without you, their thinking will be off.
- "Wisdom of the World" and "Wisdom of God" are in opposition to one another.

### Conscience Formation

We receive data on what is right from wrong from six distinct sources:

- |                                 |              |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Emotion/Feeling              | 3. The Media | 5. Civil Law             |
| 2. Reason (Wisdom of the World) | 4. Peers     | 6. Faith (Wisdom of God) |

#### SOURCE

#### GUIDELINES

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <u>1. Emotion/Feeling</u>             | 1. If it feels good - it is good<br>2. If it is easier, it's better<br>3. If everyone's doing it, it's got to be OK   |
| <u>2. Reason<br/>Wisdom of World)</u> | 1. The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you'd have them do to you<br>2. If two or more agree on a course of action, it's OK.  |
| <u>3. The Media</u>                   | 1. If it's possible, it's permissible<br>2. To question this is to be bigoted and un-American   |
| <u>4. Civil Law</u>                   | 1. What is legal is moral<br>2. What the law permits, God permits   |
| <u>5. Peers</u>                       | 1. What is permissible for one is permissible for all<br>2. It's important to do what others are doing<br>3. If you feel it makes sense to you, go for it   |
| <u>6. Faith<br/>(Wisdom of God)</u>   | 1. <u>The Commandment of Jesus:</u> "Love one as I have loved you."<br>2. <u>Great Commandment:</u> "Love God above all and neighbor as self."<br>3. <u>The Beatitudes:</u> Blessed are the poor in spirit...etc (Matt 5:1-12)<br>poor in spirit, the gentle, the peacemakers,<br>4. <u>The Works of Mercy:</u> Matt. 25:31-46. Feed the Hungry...etc.<br>5. <u>The Ten Commandments:</u> |

Parents: Like sheep in a common sheepfold, your children will hear the voices of all six of the above shepherd's voices. Their charge is to listen only to the voice of the Good Shepherd. You have the privilege and the duty of giving the the skill of critiquing Wisdom of the world and listening to the call of Jesus. Who the shepherd they will follow?

