



Must I always follow my conscience?

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“Right is right, even if everyone is against it.”

“Wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.”

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Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed.

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Conscience is the practical judgment about the rightness or wrongness of an action or attitude. It is the ability to discover God's will for your life. It enables you to hear God's voice speak to your heart.

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The Catholic Church teaches two important rules about conscience:

**Always form your conscience.**

Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator.

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The Catholic Church teaches two important rules about conscience:

**Always follow your conscience.**

In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right.

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Forming one's conscience is a serious responsibility. For a Catholic, this is a lifelong task that takes place in the Christian community.

When we listen to the Church's official teachers, we are listening to Christ.

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Everyone must obey conscience. It is the subjective norm of morality. Note, though, that conscience is one's own judgment. Thus, it can be wrong. People can make mistakes because, through no fault of their own, they may not know that certain actions or attitudes are destructive. Ignorance, selfishness, prejudice, or laziness cannot excuse an ill-informed conscience.

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In the end, you must follow your conscience. But to do so well you must always form it by learning from and assenting to Christ's teaching as it comes to us in the Church. This is a life-long task.