

Jesus' Kingdom of Justice and Truth

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 15**.

❖ Catholic Social Teaching is what we call the Church's body of teaching on social justice issues.

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❖ How we treat a person's property reflects how we treat that person. We are to respect what belongs to others.

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❖ The Seventh Commandment tells us not to steal. We are commanded to be honest and to respect the property of others.

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❖ The Tenth Commandment forbids coveting our neighbor's goods. We must be honest with ourselves and beware of envy.

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❖ Envy is feeling deprived or sad because of another's belongs, talents, or success. It can lead to unhealthy competition, negative feelings, and sin. The opposite of envy is feeling thankful for what God has given you and trusting in his providence.

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❖ Greed is the desire to possess and control things. It leads to a number of sins and does not respect the rights of others.

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❖ When we return or pay for stolen goods, we make restitution. When we repair damaged goods, we also make restitution. Restitution is essential in receiving forgiveness for violating the Seventh Commandment.

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❖ Social sin is a term for situations and institutions that harm people and are opposed to the will of Christ. We are called to change unjust systems.

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❖ The goods of the earth belong to everyone. Taking more than our fair share of the earth's goods is a sin.

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❖ The Eighth Commandment tells us that we should not bear false witness against our neighbor. We should be truthful in all we say.

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❖ James said that the tongue is like the rudder of a ship because it makes a big difference, just as small lies can cause great damage.

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❖ Fear is the number one reason people lie. Some are afraid of not being liked, so they lie and exaggerate. Some lie to be "on top." Lies work only for the moment, and in the end, lies lead to losses of friends, peace, and closeness with God.

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❖ The Eighth Commandment tells us to be truthful. Part of being truthful is keeping our word. When someone tells us a secret, he or she trusts us to keep it.

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❖ Speaking the truth builds God's kingdom, a better society, and your character. Jesus values the truth deeply.

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