



Catechism of the Catholic Church Quotes on Discernment

#1780 - The dignity of the human person implies and requires *uprightness of moral conscience*. Conscience includes the perception of the principles of morality (synderesis); their application in the given circumstances by practical discernment of reasons and goods; and finally judgment about concrete acts yet to be performed or already performed. The truth about the moral good, stated in the law of reason, is recognized practically and concretely by the *prudent judgment* of conscience. We call that man prudent who chooses in conformity with this judgment.

(Learn about church teachings to form your conscience and use that conscience to judge between right and wrong.)

#1676 - Pastoral discernment is needed to sustain and support popular piety and, if necessary, to purify and correct the religious sense which underlies these devotions so that the faithful may advance in knowledge of the mystery of Christ.<sup>182</sup> Their exercise is subject to the care and judgment of the bishops and to the general norms of the Church.

(The parish Pastor is a great resource of knowledge when discerning right choices.)

#2847 - The Holy Spirit makes us *discern* between trials, which are necessary for the growth of the inner man, and temptation, which leads to sin and death. We must also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation. Finally, discernment unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good, a "delight to the eyes" and desirable, when in reality its fruit is death.

God does not want to impose the good, but wants free beings. . . . There is a certain usefulness to temptation. No one but God knows what our soul has received from him, not even we ourselves. But temptation reveals it in order to teach us to know ourselves, and in this way we discover our evil inclinations and are obliged to give thanks for the goods that temptation has revealed to us.

(Trails help us to grow in our knowledge of right and wrong and to recognize temptation. Discernment helps us to sort it all out. Temptation is good in the sense that it helps us to realize how good God is to us.)

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