

Jesus Calls Us to Live in Love

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that when we love God, we follow Jesus and share his love with others.

Civil laws are usually made in order to promote the common good. They safeguard our rights and protect us. They enable us to live freely, to grow, and to contribute to the progress of humankind to the best of our abilities.

The commandments given to us by God have a similar purpose. They are not unreasonable demands made at the whim of an almighty being as an assertion of his authority over us. Rather, the commandments are presented as a light to help us see the right way to live, in fact, the only way to live happily.

God does not enforce his commands like a cruel despot. He encourages us to follow them like a loving parent who knows what is good for us. We are free to obey the commandments or not. But by not following the commandments, we foolishly go against our very nature, which is to be loving people made in the image and likeness of God.

Scripture in This Chapter

Matthew 9:9 The Calling of Matthew

John 15:9–11 The Fullness of Joy

Psalm 119:18 Wonders of Your Law

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1430, 2052–2055

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ identify in the life of Saint Thérèse, guidelines for a life of love.
- ✦ explain why we make sacrifices for God and for the Church.
- ✦ understand better the demands of Jesus' Law of Love.
- ✦ demonstrate his or her knowledge and understanding of the Ten Commandments as taught in Unit 2.
- ✦ understand that Jesus leaves us free to respond to his call.

Key Term for Your Information

- ✦ sacrifice—a difficult thing that is done out of love