



Forming Your Conscience Properly

FAITHFUL CITIZENS. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

Voting should involve more than party loyalty, personality, campaign advertising, or personal financial interest. Christians are called to form their consciences through prayer, meditation on Scripture, studying the philosophy of objective moral truth, and careful reflection on the common good. Conscience is not simply a feeling or permission to do whatever seems personally preferable.

When evaluating political candidates and party platforms, voters should be well-informed on the *principles of subsidiarity, solidarity, and the lesser of two evils*.

What Subsidiarity Requires

- Parents possess the primary responsibility for raising, educating, and forming their children.
- Families should remain free to handle responsibilities they can reasonably fulfill themselves.
- Churches, charities, businesses, civic organizations, and community groups should be allowed to address needs within their communities.

What Solidarity Requires

- Respect human dignity.
- Protect innocent human life.
- Avoid abandoning the poor and vulnerable.
- Promote justice for workers.
- Allow families to flourish.
- Provide genuine opportunities for people to participate in society.
- Recognize that people with greater resources have responsibilities toward others.
- Help people become capable participants in society rather than permanently treating them as powerless dependents.

What the Lesser of Two Evils Requires

When faced with two harmful or morally bad outcomes, moral reasoning requires you to:

- 1 Never deliberately choose an intrinsically evil act.
- 2 Distinguish between choosing an evil and tolerating an evil.
- 3 Choose the morally permissible option that avoids the greater evil.
- 4 Consider proportionality and intention.

List of Intrinsically Evil Acts

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| 1. Direct abortion | 7. Racism | 13. Pornography |
| 2. Genocide | 8. Torture | 14. Fornication |
| 3. Human trafficking | 9. Deliberate attacks on civilians in war | 15. Exploitation of the worker |
| 4. Euthanasia | 10. Slavery | 16. Adultery |
| 5. Intentional killing of the innocent | 11. Same-sex sexual acts | |
| 6. Embryonic destruction/experimentation | 12. Prostitution | |

*"Live as citizens worthy of the Gospel."
— Philippians 1:27*