

Work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:3

1. What does Morality deal with?

Answer: Morality deals with making good decisions and also many other factors.

Even with a clear vision of who we want to become, we face limitations in making good decisions to reach our goal.

We may be hindered by:

- our lack of knowledge,
- we may give in to societal pressures, or
- we may even fool ourselves into thinking that a bad decision is acceptable.

This tendency to choose wrongly despite our good intentions is one of the effects of what the Catholic church calls original sin.

2. We have heard the saying: “You Reap what You Sow” – What does it mean and what the factors that it contains?

Answer: The factors that it contains are habit, virtue, vice, character, and destiny.

- A **habit** is a regular pattern of acting.
- A **virtue** is a good habit, one that creates within us a kind of inner readiness or attraction to move toward or accomplish the moral good.
- A **vice** is a bad habit, one that makes us lean toward or actively pursue moral evil.
- **Character** is the combination of our virtues and vices; it is our over-riding quality as individual persons.
- **Destiny** is what ultimately become of us in the future, which depends in large part on the kind of character we build through our actions and attitudes today.

So, in short, if you plant a character you will reap a destiny.

3. What is a value?

Answer: A value is something that motivates us to think or act in a certain way.

♥ Although it is true that each person has many **values**, all **influencing his or her life to a greater or lesser degree**. These are “master values”, values of such significance that they seem to affect every area of their life.

(E.g. If the central value is **prestige**, in terms of a **school student** (to gain power, one might study hard or negatively cheat), **sports** (one might work out regularly, diet carefully and practice hard to excel in the sport) and so on.

Most values can be used either for good and life-giving purposes or for evil and destructive purposes.

4. How is one’s character formed and how is our destiny determined?

Answer: The values we identify as most central in our life will influence or determine the patterns of our decisions and actions.

- Those **patterns** of behavior will **evolve into either virtues or vices**.
- Those **virtues and vices** will merge into the very fabric of who we are as persons, **our character**.
- Hence, **character is the combination of virtues and vices**. (MTF)

So, our character – the sum of all those routine decisions and actions will together determine what we become as persons – in large part determine our final destiny.