



What is Natural Law?

The "divine and natural" law shows us the way to follow so that we can practice the good.

The natural law states the essential precepts which govern the moral life. It hinges upon the desire for God and submission to him, who is the source and judge of all that is good, as well as upon the sense that the other is one's equal.

Natural law is part of our nature and revealed to us by our reason. It is written and engraved in the soul of each and every person, because it is human reason that encourages us to do good. St. Paul even mentions that natural law is written on the human heart in Romans 2:15.

The primary principle of natural law can be reduced to "Do good and avoid evil." Wherever we find mankind we find him with a moral code, which is founded on the first principle that good is to be done and evil avoided.

Man participates in the wisdom and goodness of the Creator who gives him mastery over his acts and the ability to govern himself with a view to the true and the good. In other words, we have self-control, and it's okay to ask God for the grace to practice self-control especially in regards to overcoming temptations.

The natural law is *universal*, that is to say, it applies to the entire human race, and is in itself the same for all. Every person is bound, if they will conform to the universal order willed by the Creator, to live conformably to his or her own rational nature, and to be guided by reason.

We enunciate, for instance, one of the leading precepts in the words: "Thou shalt not kill"; yet the taking of human life is sometimes a lawful, and even an obligatory act. Herein exists no variation in the law; what the law forbids is not all taking of life, but all unjust taking of life.

Some excerpts in their article were taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1954 & 1955 and USCatholic.org.