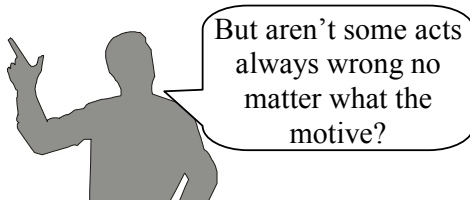


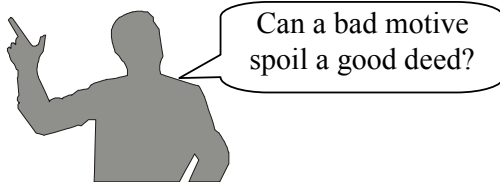
Morality Of Acts

How do Christians judge the morality of an act (*morality means the 'goodness or badness' of an act*)? The morality of an act depends a lot on

- **what** you do (the act itself),
- **why** you do it (the *intention* or *motive*).



Yes. For example, it is always wrong to kill an innocent person deliberately.



Yes. For example, volunteering to wash the dishes is a good thing. If the reason why you're volunteering is to make your brother look lazy, then you've spoiled the good deed.

A pure motive can make an act very beautiful, as in the story below.

There was a family with a young boy and girl. The two children were often squabbling, something that really annoyed their parents. One day the little girl became very ill and was rushed to hospital. The doctor said that the only thing that would save her was a blood transfusion. Unfortunately, she had a very rare blood type. The parents had their blood tested but each had the wrong type. Then it was discovered that her little brother had exactly the right blood type. The boy's mother and father asked him if he was willing to give his blood. After a moment's thought the little boy said yes. The doctor fixed up the transfusion equipment, placed the needle in the boy's arm and left him with his parents. The boy asked quietly, "How long will it be before I die?" He thought he was being asked to give every drop of his blood..

MORALITY - the 'goodness or badness' of my thoughts, words and deeds
MOTIVE - the reason, intention in my mind for doing something

Venial Sin and Mortal Sin

After Baptism my soul is in a *state of grace*. This means that God is 'at home' in me.

But I can make God my guest uncomfortable in small ways, with bad habits and carelessness I could avoid. These are **venial** sins.

I also can make God my guest leave my soul. I can, in full freedom, commit sins that I *know* are seriously wrong. These are **mortal** sins.

Mortal sins make the life of God leave my soul. They also hurt me and many others.

To do

- 1 **Someone takes something that does not belong to them.**
 - a) Describe a theft that you think is
 - i) not so serious, ii) very serious.
 - b) Explain the difference in seriousness.
- 2 **Someone does not tell the truth.**
 - a) Describe a lie that you think is
 - i) not so serious, ii) very serious.
 - b) Explain the difference in seriousness.
- 3 Give an example of how a *bad motive* could spoil these good deeds:
 - a) giving someone you don't like much a big, friendly smile.
 - b) offering to help your parents with the shopping.
 - c) *make up your own example.*
- 2 Give an example of an act that is *always* wrong no matter what. Explain why it is always wrong.

STATE OF GRACE - your soul when the life of God is inside
VENIAL SIN - a sin that weakens the life of God in my soul
MORTAL SIN - a sin that puts out the life of God in my soul