

| KEY CONCEPTS | | | |
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| CENSORSHIP | The practice of suppressing and limiting access to materials considered obscene, offensive or a threat to security. | PERSONAL CONVICTION | Something a person strongly feels or believes in. |
| DISCRIMINATION | Acts of treating groups of people, or individuals differently, based on prejudice. | PREJUDICE | Pre-judging; judging people to be inferior or superior without cause. |
| EXTREMISM | Believing in, supporting and acting on ideas that are very far from what most people consider correct or reasonable. | RELATIVE AND ABSOLUTE POVERTY | Relative poverty - a standard of poverty measured in relation to the standards of a society in which a person lives. Absolute poverty - an acute state of deprivation, whereby a person cannot access the most basic of their human needs. |
| HUMAN RIGHTS | The basic entitlements of all human beings, afforded to them simply because they are human. | SOCIAL JUSTICE | Promoting a fair society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity. Ensuring that everyone has equal access to provisions, equal opportunities and rights. |

WEALTH

Wealth can refer to the amount of money and other valuable possessions a person has. It is not sinful to be wealthy, but the Bible clearly shows that greed is unacceptable. Catholics are careful to ensure that the way they acquire or gain their wealth, and how they use it, is in keeping with biblical teachings. Greed and pursuing material possessions can stand in the way of a person's relationship with God. A person should not be judged on how wealthy they are but on how they treat others. Many members of religious orders take a vow of poverty and give up everything they possess in order to fully focus on serving God.

SOURCES OF AUTHORITY

In the Old Testament, Amos said that God will punish those who make money out of others' misfortunes. (*Amos 8:4-6*)

'You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.' (*Deut.5:21*) The tenth Commandment makes it clear that believers should be content with what they have.

'The greed of a few worsens the poverty of others...' Pope Francis, 2019

In the *Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus* (*Luke 16:19-30*) shows that wealth itself has no benefit in the afterlife; how wealth is used in this life is what matters.

In *Mark 10: 21-31*, Jesus said that it is *'easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.'* This shows that greed is unacceptable. Jesus also told the story of the *Widow's Offering*, making it clear to his followers that it is not the amount of money that people donate that is important, but rather the value of it. The widow gave all she had which meant far more than the large amounts given by the rich people (*Mark 12:41-44*).

Acquisition of Wealth

Wealth varies according to where a person lives in Wales. Some people have a great deal of wealth, others do not. For Catholics, the way in which people acquire (gain) their wealth is important. There are many ways in which to do this, but Catholics try to gain money in lawful and morally correct ways. Being too focused on acquiring wealth can lead a person away from God and damage the relationship with him. Acquiring wealth through dishonest means, such as theft or the drugs trade, can mean that other people are exploited and the needy in society are ignored.

Although there are no specific rules about jobs, some Catholics believe they should be careful about what occupation they have. For example, they may not be involved in the arms trade, prostitution or pornography as these could be seen as dishonest, immoral or harmful to others. Some doctors and nurses may request not to be involved in abortion as part of their work, due to their Catholic beliefs.

Use of Wealth

It is vital for Catholics to think about how they use their wealth. Providing for a family is important, so paying bills such as mortgage and utilities is a priority. Any money left over should be used carefully. Many Catholics disagree with using their money for gambling because they believe that gambling and lotteries can be driven by greed. Jesus makes it clear in his teachings that believers must remain faithful to God and not allow money to take his place in their lives. In fact, he instructs a young rich man to sell all of his possessions and give the money to the poor (*Mark 10:21*). Jesus emphasises the value of looking after the poor and needy; this can be done by using one's wealth appropriately. In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, he teaches that God will judge people, not on how much wealth they have, but on how they have treated the poor.