

Chapter 24 – Sin and Mankind

- Recall that when God created man He created man without sin and in state of sanctifying grace.
- Because of original sin we lost this grace.
- Because of original sin we now find it difficult to do the rights things and obey God’s commandments.
- It is often difficult to understand our behavior and why we sin.
- Saint Paul states in Romans 7:15 *“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”*
- Recall that Jesus brought us the Good New → Gospel. Because of this we can be free from original sin.
- Jesus left us the seven sacraments to restore us to a state of Grace.
- We must however watch out for temptation and sin if we want to stay in God’s grace.

The False Promises of Temptation

- What is temptation?
- Temptation is the enticement of to sin.
- Temptation causes us to do things which are bad for us.
- There are three things that can lead us into temptation:
 - **The World**
 - **The Flesh**
 - **The Devil**
- **The World:** this refers to created things or persons in our world which can lure us away from Jesus and His teachings. Example of worldly temptations:
 - A friend who is a bad influence and causes you to sin.
 - Watching bad things on TV/Internet which influence you to sin or to lose your faith.

- **The Flesh:** this refers to your own inner urges which can cause you to sin. There are seven basic disorders which stand at the head of other sins we call these sins “**Capital Sins**”. These are:
 - 1) **Pride:** an exaggerated opinion of oneself.
 - 2) **Envy:** Unhappiness over the fortunes of others.
 - 3) **Avarice:** An uncontrolled desire for earthly things like money, clothes, etc...
 - 4) **Wrath:** An uncontrolled feeling of displeasure and hate.
 - 5) **Lust:** An uncontrolled desire for sexual pleasures.
 - 6) **Gluttony:** An uncontrolled use of food and drink.
 - 7) **Sloth:** Laziness or carelessness in doing right and practicing virtue because of the work and effort needed to do so. Keep in mind that overworking can lead to slothfulness to ones duty to their family and loved ones.
- **The Devil:** this refers to Satan and the other bad angles who try to make us disobey God. Recall that the Devil tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness: *“the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”* Matt 4:8-9

CLASS VIDEO: 7 Capital Sins – 3MC – DVD #2 – Sanctification/Title #43 (2.5 minutes)

- Temptations often come through **Occasions of Sin.**
 - **Occasions of Sin** are places, persons, or things that may easily cause us to sin. → **Worldly Things.**
- Examples of Occasions of Sin are:
- Friends who do not respect our religion or God.
 - Movies or magazines that promote sexual sins
 - Parties or places where drugs and alcohol are used.
- To avoid sin we must know what leads us to sin and what our temptations are. We can then avoid occasions which may cause us to sin.

Sin and it's Evil Effects

- What is sin? Sin is an offense against God in thought, word, action, or neglect of action.
 - Sin by thought → Real hatred in your mind for another person. However, having feelings do not always constitute a sin. We can use our free will to avoid doing the sin.
 - Sin by words → Using God's name in vain or anger.
 - Sin by action → Stealing, murder, adultery, missing Mass on Sunday!
- Recall that there are two kinds of Sin: **Original and Actual**
 - Original Sin was committed by Adam and Eve. We share in this sin because we descend from them.
 - Actual Sins are sins we personally commit.
- There are two types of Actual Sin: **Mortal and Venial**
- **Mortal Sin** is the worst type of evil because it kills God's life within us. When we commit mortal sin we separate ourselves from God's sanctifying grace.
 - If a person dies in a state of mortal sin they send themselves to Hell. Why? Because when we commit a mortal sin we tell God that we want nothing to do with Him or His Holy laws.
 - Because of our own free will we are able to reject God.
 - **Three things must be present to constitute a mortal sin:**
 - 1) **The offense must be seriously wrong** → Missing Mass, Murder...
 - 2) **We must know freely that what we do is a mortal sin.**
 - 3) **We must freely choose to commit the sin** → If you miss Mass because your car breaks down, but you had the intension of going you have not committed a mortal sin.
- **Venial Sins are offenses that are not serious violations against God or His Holy Laws.**
 - Venial sins weaken our relationship to God, but they do not destroy it as mortal sins do.
 - Venial means → Forgivable.
 - We should confess venial sin during confession because of the graces we receive from the sacrament.

*“If anyone sees his brother sinning, if the **sin is not deadly**, he should pray to God and he will give him life. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as **deadly sin**, about which I do not say that you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly.” (1 Jn 5:16-17)*

The Role of Conscience

- We must follow our conscience to do good and avoid doing sin.
- **Conscience means** → we act of our own intellect to judge what is right and wrong.
- One's conscience needs to be well formed by listening to the Church's teachings and to those Holy people God has placed into our lives.
- *“We are of God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and he who is not of God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:6)*
- Not everyone's conscience is properly formed. It is possible for someone's conscience to be ill-formed.
- *“Anyone who goes ahead and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the doctrine has both the Father and the Son. If any one comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into the house or give him any greeting; for he who greets him shares his wicked work.” (2 John 1:9-11)*
- We can't form our conscience by watching bad TV shows and etc. → Good in Good out. Bad in Bad out.

Questions:

What are the two types of Sins? Original and Actual.

What is a Mortal Sin? It's the worst type of sin that separates us from God's grace.

What are Venial Sin? They are sins which are not serious violations against God or His Holy Laws.

What are Occasions of Sin? They are places, persons, or things that may easily cause us to sin