

Study Lesson Number: 14

ACTUAL SIN

"Behold this Heart which has loved men so much, which has heaped on them so many benefits. In exchange for this infinite love it finds ingratitude; instead it meets with forgetfulness, and indifference and outrages." (Words of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary, complaining of man's sins).

Is original sin the only kind of sin?

Original sin is not the only kind of sin; there is another kind, called ACTUAL SIN, which WE ourselves commit.

What is actual sin?

Actual sin is any WILLFUL thought, desire, work, action, or omission forbidden by the law of God.

How many kinds of actual sin are there?

There are two kinds of actual sin:

- (1) MORTAL SIN
- (2) VENIAL SIN

What is mortal sin?

Mortal sin is a GREIVIOUS OFFENSE against the law of God.

Why is this sin called mortal?

This sin is called mortal, or deadly, because it deprives the sinner of SANCTIFYING GRACE, the supernatural life of the soul.

MORTAL SIN IS DEATH TO THE LIFE
OF GRACE IN THE SOUL

Besides depriving the sinner of sanctifying grace, what else does mortal sin do to the soul?

Besides depriving the sinner of sanctifying grace, mortal sin makes the soul an enemy of God, takes away the merit of all its good actions, deprives it of the RIGHT to everlasting happiness in heaven, and makes it deserving of everlasting punishment in hell.

"Every sin must be said to renew in a certain way the Passion of Our Lord, 'crucifying again to themselves the Son of God and making Him a mockery' " (Heb. 6-6) Words of Pope Pius XI in his encyclical on Reparation to the Sacred Heart. This applies only to deliberate sin - - sin committed on purpose.

What three things are necessary to make a sin mortal?

First: the thought, desire, work, action or omission must be seriously wrong or considered seriously wrong;

Second: the sinner must be mindful of the serious wrong;

Third: the sinner must fully consent to it.

BRIEFLY, THE CONDITIONS ARE:

- (1) Serious matter
- (2) Sufficient reflection
- (3) Full consent of the will.

Discussion questions:

1. Does God give us laws to put chains on us and keep us from having fun?
2. Why does God give us laws anyway?
3. Is an actual mortal sin which we ourselves commit worse than the original sin with which we are born? Why?
4. Does our opinion about the sinfulness of a given action change the sinful character of that action?
5. Does a group opinion about the sinfulness of a given action change the sinful character of that action?