

Study Lesson Number: 15

ACTUAL SIN ----- Continued:

What is venial sin?

Venial sin is a less serious offense against the law of God, which does not deprive the soul of sanctifying grace, and which can be pardoned even without sacramental confession.

Venial sin is a disease in the life of grace in the soul.

How can a sin be venial?

A sin can be venial in two ways:

- (1) When the evil done is not seriously wrong;
- (2) When the evil done is seriously wrong, but the sinner sincerely believes it is only slightly wrong, or does not give full consent to it.

How does venial sin harm us?

Venial sin harms us by making us less fervent in the service of God, by weakening our power to resist mortal sin, and by making us deserving of God's punishments in this life or in purgatory.

How can we keep from committing sin?

We can keep from committing sin by praying and by receiving the sacraments; by remembering that God is always with us; by recalling that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; by keeping occupied with work or play; by promptly resisting the sources of sin within us; by avoiding the near occasions of sin.

What are the chief sources of actual sin?

The chief sources of actual sin are:

THE SEVEN CAPITAL SINS:

- (1) Pride
- (2) Covetousness
- (3) Lust
- (4) Anger
- (5) Gluttony
- (6) Envy
- (7) Sloth.

THE CAPITAL SINS ARE THE CHIEF ROOTS OF SIN.

THEY ARE INCLINATIONS IN OUR WILL TO GO AGAINST GOD'S WILL IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

Why are these called capital sins?

They are called capital sins, not because they, in themselves, are the greatest sins, but because they are the chief reasons why men commit sin.

What are the near occasions of sin?

The near occasions of sin are all persons, places, or things that may easily lead us into sin.

WE ARE STRICTLY OBLIGED TO AVOID ALL NEAR OCCASIONS OF SIN.

OTHERWISE IT SHOWS GOD WE ARE WILLING TO HURT HIM IN ORDER TO PLEASE OURSELVES OR OTHERS.

"He who loves danger will perish in it." Sirach 3/25.

Discussion Questions:

1. Suppose you did something you thought was not a sin and then found out that it was a mortal sin. Was it a mortal sin for you?
2. Can you keep out of sin if you do not pray and go to Holy Communion often?
3. No one can make us commit sin.
4. Did our sins have anything to do with Our Lord's dying on the Cross?