

Spring Summer 2023

RCIA # 12

7/24/23

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 29) Review from Last Week

- Penance
 - The Sacrament of Penance
 - Preparing for Confession

Terms

- Confession
- Penance
- Reconciliation
- Conscience
- Contrition

Actual Sin (Review)

- Can the soul die?
 - No. The soul will live forever in eternity
 - But if one dies in the state of **mortal sin** it remains forever away from God and the purpose for which it was created
- How would you define sin?
 - Any willful **thought, desire, word** or **action** or **omission** forbidden by the law of God
 - Anything contrary to the will of God
- How many kinds of sin are there?
 - Three:
 - Original sin
 - Venial sin
 - Mortal sin

Actual Sin (Review)

- The **seven capital** human weaknesses or **sins**:
 - **Pride** – inordinate seeking after one's own honor and excellence
 - **Covetousness** – immoderate desire for temporal goods
 - **Lust** – gross sin against chastity
 - **Anger** – disordered emotional state in which we seek revenge upon others
 - **Gluttony** – an intemperate love for food or drink
 - **Envy** – a sadness of mind when believing that another is better of than ourselves
 - **Sloth** – laziness or a surrender to one's dislikes for work or doing your duty

Penance (Cont)

- Penance is a:
 - **Virtue** that makes us hate our sins
 - **Sacrament** in which sins committed after baptism are forgiven through the words of absolution spoken by a priest in *persona Christi*
- This sacrament reunites the soul to God and restores sanctifying grace
- The power to forgive sins is a part of the power of the priesthood as established in scripture

Penance (Cont)

- Scriptural basis for the Sacrament of Penance
 - Lk 5:18
 - Mt 9:1
 - Lk 7:36
 - Mk 3:28
 - Lk 5:12
 - Lk 17:11
 - Mt 16:17
 - **Jn 20:19 ***
 - James 5:14
 - 1 Jn 5:16-17

Penance (Cont)

- The sin is forgiven, eternal punishment is wiped out, and a portion of the “temporal punishment” is removed but some of the “**temporal punishment**” remains
- Temporal punishment
 - A broken window
 - Paying the debt – prayers, penances, good works

Penance (Cont)

- “Catholic guilt” is a good, as it is to the soul what the sense of touch is to the body
- “**Contrition**” is from a Latin word meaning to “grind” or “pulverize” and it means being sorry for our sins

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 30)

- Contrition
 - When is Sorrow Real?
 - Thank God For Confession

Contrition

- When we receive penance our sorrow must be genuine
- Two kinds of contrition:
 - **Perfect** – sorrow for our sins which springs from a **perfect love for God**
 - **Imperfect** – hatred of sin as being essentially evil or a **fear of incurring God's justice** (the loss of heaven and eternal exile to hell)

Contrition (Cont)

- The four qualities for true contrition include:
 - **Interior sorrow** – being sorry for having offended God (an act of the will)
 - **Supernatural sorrow** – our reason for being sorry is based on a belief in a truth of God (we have been told that we must love God)
 - **Supreme sorrow** – we see the moral evil of sin as the greatest evil that exists (with Grace we will do anything rather than offend Him again)
 - **Universal sorrow** – we are sorry for all our mortal sins without exceptions

Contrition (Cont)

- There can not be a valid **act of contrition** without an accompanying **purpose of amendment** which is the commitment to avoid “the near occasion of sin”
- We use a specific formula in the sacrament of Confession because that is the way God wants it done based on Jesus’ promise to the Apostles that they could forgive sins

Contrition (Cont)

- This formula:
 - Is used by everyone in the Church including the pope
 - Protects us against the universal human weakness of self-justification
 - Often provides us with skilled advice for spiritual problems
 - Provides a psychological release from the burden of sin

Contrition (Cont)

- After the sacrament of Baptism only a **mortal sin** can separate us from God and must be confessed
- For a sin to be **mortal** it must be:
 - **A serious matter**
 - **Which we know is against God's law**
 - **We choose to do it anyway**
- We are never required to confess doubtful mortal sins

Contrition (Cont)

- We are obliged, to the best of our ability, to confess the number of times we committed each mortal sin
- We need to indicate the kind of mortal sin we have committed not just listing the broken commandment
- We should not list all of the details
- We should confess in humility and sincerity

Contrition (Cont)

- An un-confessed **mortal sin** results in the eternal loss of God
- The **temporal punishment** resulting from a mortal or venial sin may remain after the sin has been forgiven
- The debt (temporal punishment) may be paid:
 - By making works of penance in this life
 - In Purgatory
- Adult Baptism wipes out all sins and temporal punishments

Contrition (Cont)

- The size of the penance assigned by the priest may depend on the gravity of the confessed sin but will never be something that is impossible to accomplish
- One is obliged to accomplish a given penance
- Our acts of penance only have value in the infinite sacrifice of Jesus who atoned for all our sins
- Penance brings us in union with Christ as we share in the act of redemption as God wills

Part III: The Sacraments and Prayer (Chapter 31)

- Confession
 - Telling Our Sins
 - Sin and Punishment

Terms (Review)

- Confession
- Penance
- Reconciliation
- Conscience
- Contrition

Types of sins (Review)

- Original sin
- Venial sin
- Mortal sin

The 10 Commandments (Review)

- I. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me**
- II. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain**
- III. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day**
- IV. Honor thy father and thy mother
- V. Thou shalt not kill
- VI. Thou shalt not commit adultery
- VII. Thou shalt not steal
- VIII. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
- IX. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife
- X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods

Seven Capital sins (Review)

- The **seven capital** human weaknesses or **sins**:
 - **Pride** – inordinate seeking after one's own honor and excellence
 - **Covetousness** – immoderate desire for temporal goods
 - **Lust** – gross sin against chastity
 - **Anger** – disordered emotional state in which we seek revenge upon others
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Confession

- The terms Confession, Penance and Reconciliation are interchangeable
- Confession should not be seen as an intolerable burden
- If you forget a mortal sin then confess it at the next opportunity
- God is a just judge not a tyrannical judge

Confession (Cont)

- The only way to violate the sacrament of Confession is to make a sacrilegious confession where one knowingly and deliberately omits telling a mortal sin
- The important factor in Confession is intent
- Everything that is said in the sacrament of Confession is bound by a strict bond mandating that the priest is never at liberty to reveal even on the pain of death

Confession (Cont)

- This bond is required for all priests
- For anyone who has no mortal sin to confess going to the sacrament of Confession provides additional sanctifying and sacramental graces and strengthens us against temptation as well as resistance to sin
- To receive this grace one must confess at least one or more venial sins
- Frequent confession is a wonderful practice

Confession (Cont)

- **Preparation for Confession:**

- Examine conscience
- Be sorry for sins
- Have a firm purpose to not sin again
- Confess to a priest
- Perform the penance which the priest assigns

Confession (Cont)

- **The formula for going to Confession:**
 - Spending some time examining one's conscience
 - Asking for the priest's blessing
 - Reciting a list of one's sins
 - Expressing a statement of sorrow for these and all past sins

Confession (Cont)

- Reciting the act of contrition (the priest will ask you for this)
- Attaining absolution from the priest (*persona Christi*)
- Thanking the priest for hearing your confession
- Completing the “penance” assigned by the priest

Confession (Cont)

- **Other points to consider when going to Confession**
 - Speak clearly and distinctly but in a whisper
 - Do not ever list the sins of others
 - Avoid making a general confession unless requested to do so by a confessor

Confession (Cont)

- Listen attentively to the penance assigned by the priest
- Listen to the words of absolution
- After your confession, complete your penance as soon as possible and if possible remain a few moments thanking God for the sacrament of Confession

Confession (Cont)

- Remember that:
 - God is infinitely merciful and just
 - The sinner usually punishes himself (when choosing to commit a mortal sin the sinner chooses to separate himself from God)