

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Forgiveness

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21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" **22** Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. **23** "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. **24** When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; **25** and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. **26** So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' **27** And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. **28** But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' **29** So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

Mt. 18:21-35

30 He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. **31** When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. **32** Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; **33** and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' **34** And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. **35** So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Mt. 18:21-35

Forgiveness

Each member of the community and most of all, the leader of that community must never forget that he or she has received mercy from our Lord and therefore, must be merciful.

Mt. 18:21-35 Unforgiving Servant

⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. . .*

1 John 1:9

New International Version (NIV)

Sin is a kind of sickness that damages the personality of the sinner. It makes him/her unable to attain the goal of perfect happiness and fulfillment that God intended for each of us.

What is Sin?

Pride

Greed

Gluttony

Lust

Sloth

Anger or Wrath

Envy

7 Deadly Sins

Pride

- Pride is an unrestrained and improper appreciation of our own worth. This is listed first because it is widely considered the most serious of the seven sins; pride often leads to the committing of other capital sins. Pride is manifest in vanity and narcissism about one's appearance, intelligence, status, etc. Dante described pride as *"love of self perverted to hatred and contempt for one's neighbor."*

7 Deadly Sins

Greed – Greed, which is also known as avarice or covetousness, is the immoderate desire for earthly goods, as well as situations such as power. It is a sin of excess. The object a person is greedy about need not be evil, but the issue lies in the way one regards the object, placing inappropriate value on it. Greed can further inspire such sinful actions as hoarding of materials or objects, theft and robbery, trickery, and manipulation.

7 Deadly Sins

Gluttony – Gluttony, which comes from the Latin *gluttirei* – to gulp down or swallow, refers to the sin of over-indulgence and over-consumption of food and drink. The manners in which gluttony can be committed, as first mentioned by Pope Gregory the Great and later reiterated by Thomas Aquinas, are eating too soon, eating too expensively, eating too much, eating too eagerly, eating too daintily, and eating wildly.

St. Alphonsus Liguori explained that *“it is not a fault to feel pleasure in eating: for it is, generally speaking, impossible to eat without experiencing the delight which food naturally produces. But it is a defect to eat, like beasts, through the sole motive of sensual gratification, and without any reasonable object”* (The True Spouse of Jesus Christ).

7 Deadly Sins

Lust

- The sin of lust refers to impure desire of a sexual nature. Sexuality is a gift from God, and not inherently impure in itself. However, lust refers to the impure thoughts and actions that misuse that gift, deviating from God's law and intentions for us. Indulging in the sin of lust can include (but is not limited to) fornication, adultery, bestiality, rape, and incest and can lead to such things as sexual addiction.

7 Deadly Sins

Sloth

- Sloth is often described simply as the sin of laziness. However, while this is part of the manifestation of sloth, the central problem with sloth as a capital sin is spiritual laziness. The sin of sloth means being lazy and lax about living the Faith and practicing virtue.

The [Catholic Encyclopedia](#) explains: *"In general [sloth] means disinclination to labor or exertion. As a capital or deadly vice St. Thomas calls it sadness in the face of some spiritual good which one has to achieve. . . St. Thomas completes his definition of sloth by saying that it is torpor in the presence of spiritual good which is Divine good. In other words, a man is then formally distressed at the prospect of what he must do for God to bring about or keep intact his friendship with God. In this sense sloth is directly opposed to charity."*

7 Deadly Sins

Envy

- The sin of envy or jealousy is more than merely one person wanting what someone else has; the sin of envy means one feels unjustified sorrow and distress about the good fortune of someone else. The law of love leads us to rejoice in the good fortune of our neighbor – jealousy is a contradiction to this. Envy is named among the capital sins because of the other sins to which it leads.

7 Deadly Sins

Anger or Wrath

– From the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#):

*"[Anger is] the desire of **vengeance**. Its ethical rating depends upon the quality of the vengeance and the quantity of the passion. When these are in conformity with the prescriptions of balanced reason, anger is not a sin. It is rather a praiseworthy thing and justifiable with a proper zeal. It becomes sinful when it is sought to wreak vengeance upon one who has not deserved it, or to a greater extent than it has been deserved, or in conflict with the dispositions of law, or from an improper motive. The sin is then in a general sense mortal as being opposed to justice and charity."*

Because anger can be just, and due to the common usage of the word anger, this capital vice is often referred to as wrath or rage, emphasizing the unbalanced and improper motives which result in anger being a mortal sin.

7 Deadly Sins

The Church also recognizes seven capital virtues that are the appropriate counter to these vices:

chastity

abstinence

liberality or generosity

diligence

patience

kindness

humility

7 Capital Virtues

Sin, even when it is hidden (as in case of envious and jealous thoughts) gnaws at the sinner's mind and rots or weakens his/her character. Sometimes, the commission of sin occupies the sinner's mind so much that he/she cannot think of anything else, thus making him/her irritable, crafty and pessimistic. People will find the sinner an unpleasant person to talk with try to avoid his/her company.

Effects of Sin

When a sinner cheats or lies openly, his/her acts can cause loss of money, good name or sleep to victim. The victim's friends and family may rise to his/her defense thus triggering a family war that can go on for generations.

Effects of Sin

In both hidden and open sins, the sinners cannot spread God's love because he/she cannot mirror truth and love that God intended for him/her. The sinner thus, affect t he whole church in the same way a small injured part of the body of a person can affect t he whole person. That is why the Church always tries to heal the illnes or injury of a sick person.

Effects of Sin

Many are applied to this sacrament.

These names include the following:

- 1. The Sacrament of Conversion**
- 2. The Sacrament of Confession**
- 3. The Sacrament of Forgiveness**
- 4. The Sacrament of Reconciliation**
- 5. The Sacrament of Penance**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

- 1. CONTRITION**
- 2. CONFESSION**
- 3. ACTS OF PENANCE**
- 4. ABSOLUTION**

**Essential Parts of the Sacrament
of Reconciliation**

1. CONTRITION

- Is an expression of regret and sorrow for sins committed. At the same time, it is an expression of the intention to avoid sin in the future.
- Should be prepared for by an examination of conscience based on the Word of God as expressed in the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Gospels and the Apostolic teachings.

Essential Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

2. CONFESSION

The confession of sins to the priest is an external sorrow of genuine. Through confession, we demonstrate our sincerity and humility. Through confession, we show our faith in the Lord's saving touch.

Essential Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

3. ACTS OF PENANCE

Penance aims to restore the order that was disturbed by sin. Through penance, we make a reparation for the offense done against God and our neighbor. The act of penance should be taken, not as a burden but as a welcome opportunity to help repair any damage done by sins.

Essential Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Efforts at reconciliation with one neighbor
- Tears of repentance
- Concern for the salvation of one's neighbor
- The intercession of the saints
- The practice of charity which covers a multitude of sins

Means of Obtaining Forgiveness of Sins

- Gestures of reconciliation
- Concern for the poor
- The exercise and defense of the justice and right
- The admission of faults to one's brethren
- Fraternal correction
- Revision of life
- Examination of conscience
- Spiritual direction
- Acceptance and suffering
- Endurance of persecution which covers a multitude of sins

**Conversion is Accomplished by
Daily Life by:**

4. ABSOLUTION

The words of absolution given by the priest reassure the penitent that God's forgiveness has been given – a visible sign of God's loving forgiveness.

Essential Parts of the Sacrament of Reconciliation