

“Do not aim for purgatory; aim for heaven because if you miss, you’re going to fall one hell of a long way.”

-Fr. Mark Beard

The Gravity of Sin Cheat Sheet

Mortal vs. Venial Sin



Catechism Paragraph 1854

Sins are rightly evaluated according to their gravity. The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in Scripture, became part of the tradition of the Church. It is corroborated by human experience.

The 3 Criteria of Mortal Sin

Grave Matter

Sin that is mortally evil and grave.

Full Knowledge

The sinner must be aware of the sinful nature of the act and the seriousness of the offense.

Deliberate Consent

The sinner must commit the act with deliberate and complete consent.

Culpability

1735 *Imputability* and responsibility for an action can be diminished or even nullified by ignorance, inadvertence, duress, fear, habit, inordinate attachments, and other psychological or social factors.



Circumstances Matter

but they are not permissive

Forgiveness

Mortal Sin - Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Venial Sin - Eucharist, acts of charity, or sincere prayer

Effects of Sin

Mortal - Mortal sin destroys charity in the heart of man and turns him away from God. It separates the sinner from sanctifying grace until they are reconciled through the sacrament of confession.

Venial - Unlike mortal sin, venial sin does not destroy grace but weakens the sinner’s relationship with God. However, venial sins can lead to greater sin if not addressed.

Why it all matters.



Purgatory: Heaven’s Hospital



“Saint Paul in his letter to the Corinthians makes the argument that on the day of your judgment you will be tested by fire and if you survive that fire you'll be rewarded but if not you will only be purged and will only make it through fire; **they wouldn't send you to hell because once you're there you never come out.**”

Father Mark Beard's Homily
"Heaven's Hospital"



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