

Opening Prayer

Case Study: Indulgences for Reading Scripture

§1 A plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who read the Sacred Scriptures as spiritual reading, from a text approved by competent authority and with the reverence due to the divine word, for at least a half an hour; if the time is less, the indulgence will be partial. (USCCB Manual of Indulgences, 1999)

What does an indulgence do?

An indulgence remits or completes the temporal punishment due to forgiven sin partially (partial) or completely (plenary)

What is sin and its effects?

- Sin comes in two kinds
 1. Venial – damages relationship with God
 2. Mortal – cuts off our relationship with God
 - 1 Jn 5:16-17 *If anyone sees his brother sinning, if the sin is not deadly, he should pray to God and he will give him life. This is only for those whose sin is not deadly. There is such a thing as deadly sin, about which I do not say that you should pray. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not deadly.*
- So we see there is mortal and venial sin as the Church teaches
- We know this from reason since we consider murder to be worse than stealing

What does sin do?

- Venial sin damages our relationship with God and continuance in venial sin usually leads to mortal sin
- Mortal sin destroys our relationship with God so we no longer have access to God

How do we get rid of sin and its effects?

- To get rid of sin we have the Confiteor and Confession
 1. One is forgiven venial sins in the praying of the Confiteor in Mass
 2. One is forgiven all sins in Confession, even those one through no fault forgets
- Confession formally
 1. Forgives us our sin
 2. Restores us to right relationship with God
 3. Removes the legal right of the demons to bother you (sin gives the demons a legal right to bother us)
- Penance given in confession
 1. Starts to repairs the damage left by sins that are forgiven (boy with baseball analogy)
 2. You can also repair the damage by doing other things in addition to your penance
 - Spiritual Works of Mercy – Instruct Ignorant, Counsel Doubtful, Admonish Sinners, Patiently Bear Wrongs, Forgive Offenses, Comfort Afflicted, Pray for Living & Dead
 - Corporal Works of Mercy – Feed Hungry, Water Thirsty, Clothe Naked, Shelter Homeless, Visit Sick, Visit Imprisoned, Bury Dead
 - Fasting
 - Indulgences

Time for questions & discussion

Closing prayer & blessing