

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Does Each Sacrament Cleanse Us Of All Sin?

Know This...

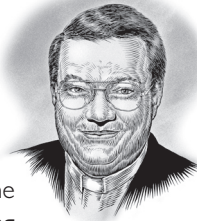
We have a common enemy that determines whether we spend eternity in heaven or in hell. Yes, Satan is a common enemy; but he does not determine our final destiny. Sin does! It's the only enemy we must fear and confront with all the weapons God gives us. The seven sacraments faithfully received and properly used can, to varying degrees, destroy sin and the stain it leaves on our souls. We must understand and acknowledge that not every sacrament is capable of cleansing the human soul of all sins.



John: There is original sin and actual sin. The two degrees of actual sin are venial and mortal. Mortal sin is called "deadly" sin because it destroys all grace in the soul.

James: There are two aspects of actual sin: guilt and punishment. When God forgives the guilt of sin, the punishment associated with it remains until penance is done.

John: Only the **Sacrament of Baptism** can cleanse the soul of original sin. Baptism also removes the guilt and punishment of all sin.



James: **Reconciliation** can cleanse the soul of mortal and venial sin. **Anointing of the Sick** can cleanse the soul of mortal sin if true sorrow is present and Confession is not possible.

John: We don't have to confess our venial sins; but confessing them is meritorious. They are cleansed by fervent prayer, the sacraments, and works of charity.

James: If we receive **Confirmation, Eucharist, Holy Orders, or Matrimony** in a state of mortal sin, we commit another mortal sin — sacrilege.

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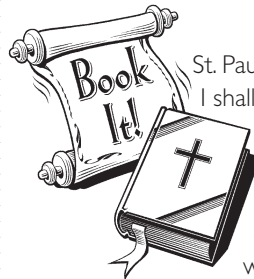


Before our Lord ascended into heaven, He told the Apostles, "Go...make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father; and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20 It is through the grace we receive in the sacraments that Christ is most tangibly with us. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." Jn. 14:18 And so our Lord does—in the sacraments.

"Jesus' words and actions during his hidden life and public ministry were already salvific, for they anticipated the power of his Paschal mystery. They announced and prepared what he was going to give the Church when all was accomplished. The mysteries of Christ's life are the foundations of what he would henceforth dispense in the sacraments, through the ministers of his Church, for [as St. Leo the Great wrote] 'what was visible in our Savior has passed over into his mysteries.'" CCC 1115 "The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions." CCC 1131 "Grace alone conquers sin." St. Augustine



BE ATTITUDES "Don't forget, my son, that for you there is but one evil on earth: sin. You must fear it and avoid it with the grace of God." St. Josemaria Escriva "A sacrament is a sign that commemorates what precedes it—Christ's Passion; demonstrates what is accomplished in us through Christ's Passion—grace; and prefigures what that Passion pledges to us—future glory." St. Thomas Aquinas "If sin abounds in malice to ruin us, grace superabounds to restore us." St. Francois De Sales



St. Paul wrote, "My eager expectation and hope is that I shall not be put to shame in any way, but that with all boldness, now as always, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." Phil 1:20 "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Gal 2:20 Paul reminds us that Christ is with us and that we grow in holiness when we faithfully and properly receive His sacramental grace. "Why delay?" Paul says. "Get up and have yourself baptized and your sins washed away." Acts 22:16

Lord Jesus, when St. Paul asked You to end his torment at the hands of Satan, You told him, "My grace is sufficient for you." You are with us always. You will never desert us. Your grace, especially the grace I receive in the sacraments, is the only weapon I need to fight the enemy: sin. May Your grace perfect my behavior and strengthen my resolve to fight the good fight, to never given in, and to never fall into despair. I ask this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

