

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

What Harms Our Relationship With The God Who Loves Us?

Know This...

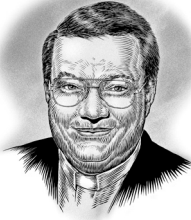
God created Adam and Eve to share in His holiness and glory forever. He gave them stainless souls full of grace. He created them without conflict between right reason and desires of the flesh. When Satan convinced Adam and Eve that they would not die if they ate from the tree of good and knowledge, they lost these two gifts for all of us.



John: Sin and death entered the world through Adam's disobedience. Our attraction to sin harms our relationship with God.

James: When Adam and Eve listened to Satan, man lost communion with God. The essence of sin is rebellion against God and opposition to Him.

John: God's original plan for us included perpetual happiness, perfect health, companionship, food, and dominion over His creation. It did not include pain, suffering, and death.



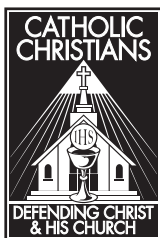
James: There are two types of sin. Original sin is the absence of grace in our soul. Actual sin is a free, conscious, and informed personal act to ignore God's love and will.

John: There are two gravities of actual sin. Venial sin is disobedience against God that does not involve serious moral matter. Mortal sin involves serious moral matter and destroys all the divine life of grace in our soul.

James: When we sin, we surrender to temptation and reject God's will, laws, and love. If we die in a state of mortal sin, we condemn ourselves to hell.

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Jesus uses exaggeration to stress the deadliness of sin. "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." Mk 9:43, 45, 47-48

"Sin is an offense against God as well as a fault against reason, truth, and right conscience. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the eternal law of God." ccc Glossary "Everyone who sins dies. Every man fears the death of the flesh, few the death of the soul. In regard to the death of the flesh, which without a doubt must someday come, all guard against its coming; that is the reason for their labors. Man, destined to die, labors to avert his dying; and yet, destined to live in eternity, does not labor to avoid sinning."

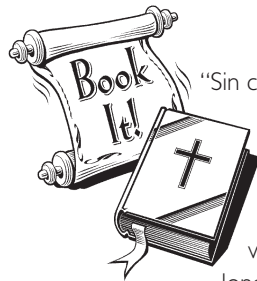
St. Augustine, Homilies on the Gospel of John



BE ATTITUDES



"You should permit yourself to be tormented by every kind of martyrdom before you allow yourself to commit a mortal sin." St. Louis, King of France "To sin is human, but to persist in sin is devilish." St. Catherine of Siena "Do not imitate those who deceive themselves by saying, 'I will sin and then go to confession.' How do you know that you will have time to make your confession? Is it not madness to wound oneself, in the hope that a doctor will be found to heal the wound?" St. John Bosco



"Sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men." Rom 5:12
 St. Paul struggled with sin. "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. So then it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me." Rom 7:15-20

Heavenly, Father, when I sin I harm our relationship and weaken my desire to please You. I will not find peace and happiness in this life if I continue to sin. Help me resist attachment to the things of this world, desires of the flesh, and Satan. Through the Holy Spirit, give me the strength and wisdom to serve You always and to reject sin whenever it tempts me. I ask this through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

