

Catechism Course 2021

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#5 Sin and Redemption

The existence of sin/evil is a reality that we cannot ignore.

We never talk of sin without talking also of God's redemptive love and mercy.

1. Fall of the Angels

Animals cannot sin because they do not have free will and intellect. Only angels and human beings have free will and intellect, and so only they can sin.

Unlike humans, angels *are* pure will and intellect; they fully understood and fully willed to turn away from God forever. Unlike human beings, the fallen angels will never allow themselves to return to God's love.

The sin of Lucifer was Pride- he did not want to serve; he wished to be as God.

The fallen angels continue to tempt human beings to turn away from God. The devil tempted Adam and Eve with the sin that resulted in his own downfall: he told them 'you will be like Gods' (Gen 3:5). The devil is 'a liar and the father of lies.' (Jn 8:44).

Evil and goodness are not too equal powers. Sin/evil is only a defect, a corruption of being. The devil is not an evil god: he is only a creature.

2. The Fall of Man (Original Sin)

Human beings were created by God in a state of original holiness. The eating from the 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil' represents Adam and Eve's desire to be as God, to break the relationship with God.

Scripture tells the results of sin: a loss of control over ourselves, an alienation from creation/nature, and a breakdown of the human family. Cain killing his brother Abel is the start of a tragic history of sin that resulted from the fall of Adam and Eve.

---Personal sins are the sinful actions that we do. We are responsible for them.

---Original Sin is something that we inherit. It means that our nature is somewhat corrupted. so that we are predisposed to sin. Unlike personal sin, it is a state (the way our human nature is), not an act (something we do). We are not responsible for original sin.

3. Sin Today

-The struggle against sin is a spiritual struggle. We need to be open to God's grace.

-Sin is anything that goes against God; it is a failure to love God.

-Sin wounds our relationship with God; it wounds our love; and it wounds the human family.

Sin can be classified as to how serious it is: as either *venial* or *mortal*.

Social sin refers to a sinful environment that encourages people to sin.

Resources: catechism paragraphs 385-421, 1846-1874

Scripture: Genesis 3, Revelation 12

Hugh Connolly, *Sin*.