

Which Sins it is Necessary to Confess

The only sins that we are obliged to confess, are mortal sins, because they alone deprive the soul of sanctifying grace. It is very praiseworthy to confess venial sins, also, but there is no obligation to do so.

Sanctifying Grace

Every Christian ought to know what sanctifying grace is. Sanctifying grace is a divine gift, a lasting quality that God pours into our soul, which renders us friends of God, heirs of heaven, and brethren of Jesus Christ.

We receive this grace at the moment of Baptism, and it remains in us as long as we commit no sin. Mortal sin alone can make us lose it.

This grace is the true life of the soul, in as much as the soul that possesses it is truly living before God; if she should pass to the other world in that state, it would be impossible for her not to obtain eternal life, namely, paradise. The soul deprived of sanctifying grace, on the contrary, is really dead in the eyes of God; and if called from the world in that state, it would be impossible for her to escape eternal death, namely, eternal damnation. Now, this grace, note it well, is the portion of all souls not in mortal sin; and it is wanting to all souls that are in mortal sin, had they committed only one.

This grace is called sanctifying, because it sanctifies souls; consequently, every soul exempt from mortal sin, is truly holy, even had she committed thousands and thousands venial sins. It is this grace that sanctifies the just on earth and even the saints in heaven, so that the blessed and Mary, their Divine Queen, are saints by means of sanctifying grace.

Do we comprehend the price of this treasure? He who possesses it, is really the friend of God and His adopted son. He is the brother of Jesus Christ, "the First-born among many brethren," and by all these titles he is by right the heir to eternal beatitude.

He who has sanctifying grace is, besides, holy with the holiness of even the saints of heaven and of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Again, do we comprehend the price of this treasure? If Christians understood it, never would they admit into