

The Baltimore Catechism

55. Did Adam and Eve obey the commandment of God?

Adam and Eve did not obey the commandment of God, but ate of the forbidden fruit.

56. What happened to Adam and Eve on account of their sin?

On account of their sin Adam and Eve lost sanctifying grace, the right to Heaven, and their special gifts: They became subject to death, to suffering and to a strong inclination to evil; and they were driven from the Garden of Paradise.

57. What has happened to us on account of the sin of Adam?

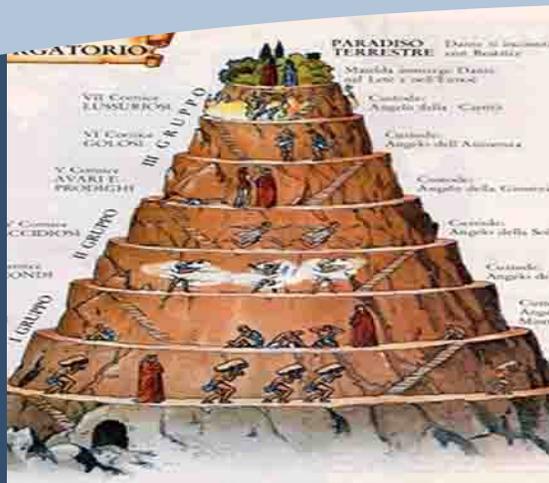
On account of the sin of Adam, we, his descendants, come into the world deprived of sanctifying grace and inherit his punishment, as we would have inherited his gifts had he been obedient to God.

58. What is this sin in us called?

This sin in us is called original.

59. Why is this sin called original?

This sin is called original because it comes down to us through our origin (or descent) from Adam.



This Issue

Evil Lies Beneath the Surface P.1

Don't Invite Satan Into Your Life P.2

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Counsel P.2

SHOCKFactor™ – Fr. Martin von Cochem P.2

Evil Lies Beneath the Surface

Each generation thinks the times they are living through is the worst of times; that the preceding generations were morally better. There is some truth to this. *Mind Geek* is the parent company of Pornhub. It owns many other well-known porn sites and porn production companies. You wouldn't know about the evil that lies beneath this company just by looking at its website: www.mindgeek.com.

Mind Geek founders discovered a way to track mouse clicks and created the first method to monetize websites. Mind Geek is in it for the money using pornography as its platform. The pornography is free; the site's advertising is what makes the company hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

Mind Geek was formed in 2004. It wasn't around in the previous generation.

On June 10, 1957, the FDA approved a drug called Enovid that treated menstrual disorders. Three years later, the FDA approved Enovid for contraceptive use. However, it wasn't until 1972 that a Supreme Court case cleared the way for any woman to be prescribed Enovid for contraceptive use. Enovid wasn't around in previous generations.

Contraception was around for centuries before a mass-produced birth control pill was on the market. The Church of England in 1930 approved

contraceptives for married couples under certain conditions. That led the way for other Protestant denominations to make similar declarations. Only the Catholic Church has been steadfast in the full condemnation of contraception. For Christians, acceptance of contraception wasn't around in previous generations.

While the level of depravity has increased with each successive generation, one basic principle is true. The wickedness of men has existed since the Garden of Eden:

"And God, seeing that the wickedness of men was great on the earth, and that all the thought of their heart was bent upon evil at all times" (Genesis 6:5)

"You know then how to discern the face of the sky: and can you not know the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign: and a sign shall not be given it" (Matthew 16:4)

"And with a great many other words did he testify and exhort them, saying, save yourselves from this perverse generation." (Acts 2:40)

"That you may be blameless, and sincere children of God, without reproof, in the midst of a depraved and perverse generation" (Philippians 2:15)

There is always a generation to do Satan's bidding.

The Gift of Counsel

The gift of counsel applies our knowledge and understanding to the many concrete situations of everyday life. Counsel elevates the virtue of prudence so that we will choose the wisest course of action in a given situation, especially when we are perplexed as to the right choice to be made. Counsel endows us with a desire to act always in a way that promotes our sanctification and salvation in accordance with God's holy will. We pray that the Holy Spirit will richly endow us with the ability to judge rightly the situations that challenge our faith so that we may not waver along the path to holiness.

Let us pray.

Father, send the Spirit of Counsel upon us for the accomplishment of your holy will in our lives, in the Church and in the world. Incline our hearts to your will, our minds to right judgment and our actions to what is good, so that living by the Holy Spirit, we may truly be "salt and light" for others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHOCKFactor™

[W]e are taught that Christ ordained that all men in the hour of their dissolution should suffer the like pains which Christ suffered for us in His last agony, in order that they may gain some knowledge, by their own experience, of the terrible nature of the death He endured for us, and the great price He paid for our ransom. How painful, how terrible, how awful death will be for us, if our death is in any degree to resemble Christ's most agonizing death!

How severe a conflict is before us poor mortals! What torments await us at our last hour! One is almost inclined to think it would have been preferable never to have been born than to be born to suffer such anguish. But it is thus that Heaven is to be won, and through this narrow gate alone can we enter into Paradise. Wherefore, O Christian, accept your destiny cheerfully, and form a steadfast resolution to bear uncomplainingly the bitterness of death.
- Fr. Martin von Cochem, OSFC

Don't Invite Satan Into Your Life

Satan is masterful and persistent in his method of spreading evil. And he's in no hurry. In fact, he prefers a slow and gradual approach until the day comes when you no longer believe he exists. Your intellect becomes so weakened that you think with emotions and not facts and reason. Have you already reached this point?

Satan loves to corrupt politicians, government leaders, teachers and institutions because of the far-reaching effect it provides. Entertainment, news media, Big Tech, education and health care institutions have all been corrupted by Satan. By corrupted I mean these institutions support and promote left-leaning liberal policies and agendas that are immoral. They also actively work to silence opinions that do not support their agenda. Not every aspect or every person, of course, is corrupt. But the leadership of these institutions sets the agenda that supports immoral agendas.

Many unsuspecting people create problems for themselves by inviting Satan into their homes and in their lives with their unknowing or knowing attractions to immoral thoughts, deeds and actions. Even mild interest in satanic-related images, books, TV shows, movies and clothing, as well as horoscopes and yoga, are indirect sources of simple misfortune in many people's lives. Don't invite Satan into your life!

You don't have to be a self-proclaimed Satan worshipper to be ruined by evil, just a person that is not under God's grace. Apart from God's grace, you leave yourself susceptible to evil influence, which impacts your conscience, your intellect (ability to

reason vs. responding to emotions) and your soul.

If you are indifferent to these matters, you are probably thinking that I am not making any sense. That's understandable. It's all in what you pay attention to, right? How many of that new type of car you're driving do you now see on the road? Or the cell phone you recently bought? How about the stories or ads that show up in your social media feeds? Those come from an algorithm based on your past interests, clicks and ad history.

To believe in the existence of the battle for souls in the spiritual war between God and Satan is an act of supernatural faith granted by God through sanctifying grace. If you don't believe it or doubt it, you're lacking in faith because of the lack of grace. I didn't believe or completely understand this until very recently, like in the past 3–5 years. This explains why you haven't heard me mention it until now. My own faith was lacking.

But now, it is urgent you understand and believe this. It is the explanation for all the trouble in the world and the troubles you face. Evil has infiltrated our most basic institutions, especially the mainstream media. If the mainstream media is the only place you get your news (ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox, etc.), then you're a pawn in Satan's scheme to damn as many souls as he can.

I'm not trying to force you to believe this; neither is God. I'm being led by the Holy Spirit to make up lost time and knowledge and impart it upon you. It's up to you.

Be not like horse and mule, unintelligent, needing a bridle and bit ... Many sorrows [have] the wicked, but he who trusts in the Lord, loving mercy surrounds him.

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord ... !

- Psalms 32:9-11

My dearest children: **You are in mortal danger!** I failed to properly teach you the precepts of the Catholic Church and the beauty, richness and completeness of the Catholic faith. Therefore, I have taken on this little project. My goal is to produce this newsletter every month and send it along with little tokens to help you appreciate the gift. It is meant to bring about a moment of reflection and discussion. I love you, and God bless you!