

The Baltimore Catechism

73. How can we keep from committing sin?

We can keep from committing sin by praying and by receiving the sacraments; by remembering that God is always with us; by recalling that our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost; by keeping occupied with work or play; by promptly resisting the sources of sin within us; by avoiding the near occasions of sin.

74. What are the chief sources of actual sin?

The chief sources of actual sin are pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth, and these are commonly called capital sins.

75. Why are these called capital sins?

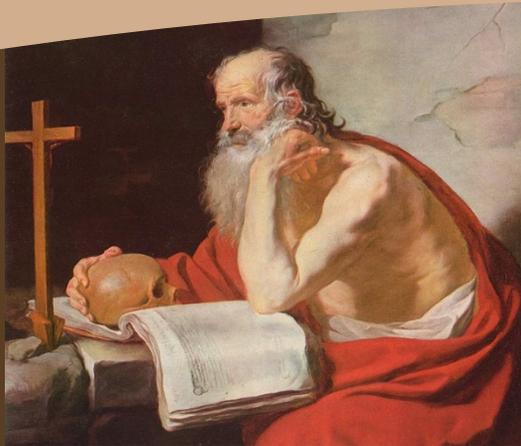
They are called capital sins, not because they, in themselves, are the greatest sins, but because they are the chief reasons why men commit sin.

76. What are the near occasions of sin?

The near occasions of sin are all persons, places or things that may easily lead us into sin.

77. Did God abandon man after Adam fell into sin?

God did not abandon man after Adam fell into sin but promised to send into the world a Savior to free man from his sins and to reopen to him the gates of Heaven.



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Where Did the Bible Come From?

Created by God and written by Catholics who were inspired by God, the Holy Bible, consisting of 46 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books, was assembled, translated and preserved by the Catholic Church. If you accept the Holy Bible as the word of God, you also accept the Catholic Church as the **sole authority** for the **creation and interpretation** of the Holy Bible.

The Old Testament is comprised of four sections: the Pentateuch, the historical books, the wisdom books and the prophetic books. The New Testament contains four gospels, one historical book, one apocalyptic book (using symbolic language to convey a spiritual truth) and 21 epistles (letters).

The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew but was later translated into Greek. This Greek translation was known as the **Septuagint**. Jesus Himself quoted from the Septuagint; the New Testament writers quoted extensively from it as well. It was read aloud in the synagogues.

The New Testament was first established by **oral tradition**. It was St. Peter's preaching on Pentecost Sunday 20 years before the first word of the New Testament was ever written. Saint Peter established the style and manner of how the first Jews and Gentiles were converted to Christianity. Oral tradition was how the world was converted in the Early Church.

The issue of which Old Testament texts were to be read at Mass had been settled — the Septuagint was used. But the New Testament was a different story.

Most of the New Testament was written between A.D. 50–100. During this time, there were numerous writings claiming to be authentic and true about Jesus and the Early Church. The authentic New Testament writings were deemed to be those approved to be read at Mass by the local bishops.

However, there were dozens of canons (collections of writings approved to be read at Mass) created by bishops. In A.D. 150, St. Irenaeus, a bishop, declared that of the many writings claiming to be "gospels," only four should be regarded as authentic. True to this declaration, the canon of Sacred Scripture consisted of the Septuagint, the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Acts of Apostles (written by Luke) and the letters of Paul.

The Council of Rome, in A.D. 382, approved the first official canon of the Catholic Church: all the Septuagint and twenty-seven books of the New Testament — all written in Greek. Subsequently, this canon was confirmed by three other councils. So, by the fifth century, the canon was complete. There is now a single volume of Catholic Sacred Scripture created under the authority of the

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bishops and the pope, who themselves were appointed through apostolic succession (they could trace their appointments all the way back to the Apostles).

At the same time, Pope Damasus, who had presided over the Council of Rome, commissioned St. Jerome to translate this new canon of Sacred Scripture from Greek to Latin. Saint Jerome produced what is known as the **Latin Vulgate**, which is subsequently declared as the official bible of the Catholic Church in 1546.

The first significant modern-day (at the time) English translation from the Latin Vulgate was the Douay-Rheims Bible (the New Testament was published in 1582; the last part of the Old Testament, in 1610) (www.drbo.org).

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has published a list of approved translations for the Holy Bible. (<https://www.usccb.org/offices/new-american-bible/approved-translations-bible>). Readings read at Mass are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) (<https://bible.usccb.org/bible>).

There are two other significant English translations sold today that are not approved by the Catholic Church. They are the New International Version (NIV) and the King James Version (KJV). These bibles are not approved because they have been abridged. You will not find the following books and passages in these bibles:

- From the Old Testament: Tobit, Judith, Wisdom, Sirach, Baruch, and I and II Maccabees (these are called the *deuterocanonical books*; any disputes about the authenticity of these books as Sacred Scripture was long ago settled by the Catholic Church).
- Matt. 17:21 and 18:11; John 5:4; Acts 8:37, 15:34 and 24:7; and Rom. 16:24.

Most egregiously, Martin Luther added the word “alone” to Rom. 3:28:

“For we account a man to be justified by faith [alone] without the works of the law.”

Luther’s beliefs are summed up by two phrases: *sola scriptura* (by Scripture alone) and *sola fide* (by faith alone). Under whose authority did Martin Luther add the word “alone?” **His and only his**. Luther is also responsible for the omission of the deuterocanonical books from the Old Testament. Under whose authority did he do that? **His and only his**. Martin Luther claimed to have the authority to modify the canon of Sacred Scripture on his own. No priest or bishop or Protestant minister can do that. If you believe that the Holy Bible is the word of God, then you must accept the authority of the Catholic Church to be the sole definer, modifier and interpreter of it. Neither did other Protestant “reformers” — Wycliffe, Tyndale, Calvin, Zwingli — have the authority to modify Sacred Scripture for their own Bibles.

No book can interpret itself. Only the original author can interpret a book he has written. Even Scripture says itself that it is not self-interpretative (see Acts 8:27–31).

No church can claim to have the universal mandate to convert the world as does the Catholic Church. It wasn’t Jesus Christ that created the division we have today within Christianity; His intention certainly wasn’t so. It was men like Luther, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Calvin and Zwingli that created this division, usurping authority they did not have. God desires that we know the truth. Truth is a single path up Mount Tabor. There is no plurality of paths that lead to the same destination; all paths are not the same. The Sacred Deposit of Faith subsists only in the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.

SHOCKFactor™

“There is no glory in being a fence sitter anymore, especially just because how bad [the culture] has gotten. Our parents and our grandparents were able to be fence sitters and kind of ride the wave of prosperity, but we don’t really have that opportunity anymore. And so, at this point, sure, you’re not exactly advancing the cause of the enemy [the Culture of Death], but you’re essentially occupying space under their flag; you’re basically wearing their uniform. At this point, you’re complicit in what they are doing because if you are a person who gets it, which is very rare — 97% of people don’t get it — and if you get it and you still don’t want to take action ... if you can’t even do [something], then I don’t think it’s fair for you even to act like you really understand the degree to which things have degraded in this country.”

- John Doyle, Founder of heckoffcommie.com

“Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch. ... Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go and join up with that chariot.’ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’

He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone instructs me?’”

- Acts 8:27–31

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!