

Study Lesson Number 48

The First Commandment Continued:

What are the sins against hope?

The sins against hope are presumption and despair.

When does a person sin by presumption?

A person sins by presumption when he trusts that he can be saved by his own efforts without God's help, or by God's help without his own efforts.

An example of the first type would be a man who prays very little because he does not see the need of asking God for help.

An example of the second type would be a man who would commit a mortal, presuming that God would give him the grace to go to confession. GOD MIGHT NOT!!

When does a person sin by despair?

A person sins by despair when he deliberately refuses to trust that God will give him the necessary help to save his soul.

An example would be a man who commits sins in business to make profit or more money, because he refuses to trust that God will help him to provide for his family. God is offended when we refuse to trust in His love and care for us.

At the same time, a man is guilty of the sin of presumption if he refuses to stir himself to make a decent living for his family, thinking that God will provide.

What are the chief sins against charity?

The chief sins against charity are hatred of God and of our neighbor; envy, sloth, and scandal.

Envy means resenting another's success because we are not as successful ourselves.

Sloth means laziness, especially in doing good for the members of our family - firstly, and then for others.

Ordinary kindnesses towards family members are expected as a norm, as are the performance of ordinary chores around the house which would benefit the entire family.

Scandal is bad example which could lead another into sin.

It is easy to see how these sins are opposed to the love we should have for others as the children of God.

Besides the sins against faith, hope and charity, what other sins does the First Commandment forbid?

Besides the sins against faith, hope, and charity, the First Commandment also forbids superstition and sacrilege.

A person sins by superstition when he attributes to a creature a power that belongs to God alone, as when he makes use of charms or spells, believes in dreams or fortune-telling and spiritualism. Even party games, such as reading palms, tea leaves, the ouija board - etc.

A person sins by sacrilege when he mistreats sacred person, places and things.