

SIN – A Quick Summary!

I. The Basics:

A. Sin is an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the Eternal Law. It is an offense against God and is in disobedience to Him. How do we know what the Eternal Law is? The Eternal Law is found in the Bible, specifically the *Ten Commandments*, the Two Commandments of Christ, and the understanding of sin as explained through its interpretation in light of the Tradition of the Catholic Church.

B. Sin is a transgression against the Law, but most importantly, it is a betrayal of love. Sin is the conscious turning away from God's friendship.

II. Types of Sin:

A. Sin can be both **personal** evil and **social** evil. Sins are evaluated according to their gravity. *The First Letter of John*, verses 16 and 17, speaks of the distinction between mortal and venial sin.

III. Mortal and Venial Sins

A. Mortal sin is sin:

1) Whose object is grave matter (related to the *Ten Commandments*), and 2) Which is committed with full knowledge, and the 3) Deliberate consent (psychological/physical) of the person. (CCC # 1857, p. 455).

B. The consequences of mortal sin are:

1) The loss of charity - the formal breaking of your relationship with God; 2) The blocking of sanctifying grace – which leads to the death of the soul; 3) If unrepented, it will result in the exclusion from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of Hell. Remember, our freedom has the power to make eternal choices (CCC #1861).

C. Venial sin concerns a less serious matter:

1) It weakens charity.
2) It manifests a disordered affection for created goods;
3) It impedes the soul's progress in the exercise of Christian virtues and the practice of moral good.
4) It merits punishment, but it does not break the covenant (relationship) with God; nor does it deprive the sinner of sanctifying grace, friendship with God, charity, and consequently eternal happiness (CCC #1863).