

Catechism Question #18

Question: WHAT IS SIN?

Answer: Sin is transgression of the revealed will of God which teaches that we are to act in perfect holiness from a heart of faith to the glory of God.

Scripture: 1 John 3:4; Romans 5:13; 14:23; 1 Peter 1:16; Matthew 5:48; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Commentary: “Sin is any attitude or desire or action that explicitly breaks a commandment of Scripture, or comes from a heart of unbelief or is not done for the glory of God.” (Piper) We must recognize that sin is not simply mistakes, or accidental failure. It is deliberate rebellion against the high king of heaven and we must remind our students that sin infects everything in our world. Including our own hearts, which is the fundamental reason we need a savior, not from tripping and falling, but from actively disobeying God.

Discussion Questions

- 1. The Apostle John tells us that sin is “lawlessness.” What law are we transgressing in the act of sin? How is breaking civil laws (government laws) different from breaking the moral laws of God?**
- 2. How does sin play itself out in our daily lives? What is our response to it?**
- 3. What is the revealed will of God? Find places in Scripture that give us the revealed will of God.**
- 4. Because we transgress the revealed will of God, we are all guilty of sin. The logic then begs the question, could we not be sinful if we simply did not transgress the law of God?**
- 5. Would it be beneficial for the moral law of God to be enforced fully by human governments? Would that keep people from sinning?**
- 6. This should lead us to pray the prayer on the next page, the Gospel is the answer to sin. Take some time to read the prayer and dissect its meaning and how precious the gospel is!**

“The Gospel Way”

BLESSED LORD JESUS,

No human mind could conceive or invent the gospel. Acting in eternal grace, you are both its messenger and its message, lived out on earth through infinite compassion, applying your life to insult, injury death that I might be redeemed, ransomed, freed. Blessed are you, O Father, for contriving this way, Eternal thanks be to you, O Lamb of God, for opening this way, Praise everlasting to you, O Holy Spirit, for applying this way to my heart. Glorious Trinity, impress the gospel on my soul, until its virtue diffuses every faculty; let it be heard, acknowledged, professed, felt. Teach me to secure this mighty blessing; help me to give up every darling lust, to submit heart and life to its command, to have it in my will, controlling my affections, molding my understanding; to adhere strictly to the rules of

true religion, not departing from them in any instance, nor for any advantage in order to escape evil, inconvenience or danger. Take me to the cross to seek glory from its infamy; strip me of every pleasing pretense of righteousness by my own doings. O gracious Redeemer, I have neglected you too long, often crucified you, crucified you afresh by my impenitence, put you to open shame. I thank you for the patience that has borne with me so long, and for the grace that now makes me willing to be yours. O unite me to yourself with inseparable bonds, that nothing may ever draw me back from you, my Lord, my Savior.