

# A QUESTION OF FAITH

By AJP

## No.7 : Sin

Sin is a deliberate offence against reason, truth and right conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbour caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. We all know about good and bad but can only really understand sin in the light of Christ. 'The Spirit came to convict the world of sin.' Jn 16:8.

God knew when He gave his creatures freedom, they would misuse it.

ORIGINAL SIN is this abuse of freedom when we choose ourselves before God. The transmission of Original Sin to ALL mankind is a mystery but we can see the results.

Once we have sinned we are damaged – the consequences of original sin are poetically shown in the Bible as a steady downward slope into disharmony both personally and between people.

We find it harder to resist temptation. We cut ourselves off from God and His plan for us.

*We cannot see the wood for the trees.*

MORTAL SIN, evident in Scripture, became part of the tradition of the Church. It cuts us off from charity. It requires full knowledge and complete consent. No one can be deemed ignorant of the principles of the moral law. Our feelings and passions can diminish the voluntary character of the offence. So, we can never judge a person just by the act. Only God knows our hearts.

VENIAL SIN is disobedience to the moral law in a less serious matter or when we do so without full understanding or consent. It still allows charity even though it wounds it. It does not set us against God. It does not deprive us of sanctifying grace, friendship with God and eternal life.

NB some make a mistake thinking bad thoughts are sinful. Wanting to murder is not the same as murdering. It is normal to be tempted.

*'These reflections are loosely based on 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' 1994 where you can find more. But please do ask questions or share your knowledge to help us all build our Faith'*