



Scripture nugget - Sin destroys freedom and joy

Jesus answered them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in a household forever, but a son always remains. So if a son frees you, then you will truly be free." (John 8:34-36).

Sin is the only thing that can separate us from God's love. St Paul tells us clearly that there is absolutely no power in existence or to come into existence that can stop God from loving us (cf. Romans 8:35-39). However, we can cut ourselves from God's love by our voluntary rejection of His love through our personal sins. Our Catechism tells us sin is an offense against God (cf. CCC 1850) and against reason, truth and right conscience (cf. CCC 1849). It is a rejection of God's love as it is contrary to God's love and all that He stands for. Further, Jesus tells us that everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. Sin tends to reproduce itself and reinforce itself (cf. CCC 1865). This is because without timely sincere repentance and a firm resolve to turn away from sin, sin will produce perverse inclination to more sin, cloud the conscience over its rightful judgement, reduce the horror of sin, and weaken the will to practise virtue and increase in holiness. Thus, sin destroys our freedom to always seek God, our end and Highest Good and to walk on the true path to our transcendent, glorious destiny reserved for God's children. St Paul describes this aptly when he lamented how he failed to do the things he wanted to do, and did the things he did not want to do (cf. Romans 7:15, 19). He attributed this weakness to the power of sin operating in him.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). Everyone has sinned and fallen from grace (cf. Romans 3:23). The only person who can save us from eternal damnation is Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of God. Through His Passion and Blood shed on the Cross of Calvary, and Resurrection, Christ atoned for our sins and won for us eternal life of love, joy, wonder and peace with God. God created us without our help. However, for our eternal salvation, we are to do our part: we have to repent our sins sincerely and pick up our crosses daily and follow Christ in faith, love and fidelity to His commandments and God's holy will. Though the power of sin is still operating in us, St Paul reminds us that in Christ we can overcome all things (cf. Philippians 4:13). In Christ, we are no longer slaves to sin unless we choose to be through our perverseness in remaining in sin. Through our Baptism, we die to sin and rise to a new life in Christ. *We were indeed buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life (Romans 6:4).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You with all my heart for Your great work of redemption when You use Your own Precious Blood to purchase my redemption and salvation. You have given me Your Holy Spirit so that by the power of Your graces merited by Your Passion, I may overcome sin victoriously. Thank You for the wondrous gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation through which Your Precious Blood and Water from Your pierced Side cleanse my sinful soul mightily and miraculously when I make a sincere act of repentance through Confession. Give me the grace to abhor sin because it causes You pain and sorrow, and to remain in a state of grace so that my poor heart can be a tabernacle of consolation for Your Sacred Heart. May I love You as You love me! Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.