

Sin Forgiveness & Indulgences

The Catholic understanding of how
Christ heals our Souls and our
Relationships

Overview

- In this presentation we will look at
 - The different types of sin
 - The effects of sin
 - Forgiveness
 - Confession, Reconciliation, and Penance
 - Indulgences

Different Types of Sin

- Original Sin
 - This is not a sin we commit but a state of deprivation of original holiness and justice
 - The first sin was trying to be “like God” but without God
 - It reminds us that we are all intertwined and effect one another



Different Types of Sin



- Actual Sin is a sin that you commit, that you actually do (thought, words, actions or inactions)
 - Mortal
 - Sins that destroy God's life in us, separate us from God
 - Venial
 - Sins that wound our life with God, hurt our ability to know and love God
 - 1 Jn. 5:16-17

Different Types of Sin

- Mortal Sin must have all 3 of these components
 - Serious--must know that it is serious
 - Free to choose--must not be forced or unable to choose
 - Choice--must actually choose it
- All other sins are Venial



The Effects of Sin

- The effects of sin refer to the consequences of sin; to what happens when a person sins
 - Catholic Ethics is an ethics of being
 - The relationship with God is hurt
 - Our relationships with others is hurt
 - My relationship to myself is distorted

Effects of Sin

- Effects of sin on my relationship with God
 - God isn't changed but
 - I can no longer see God as love
 - I become afraid of God or to trying to appease an angry God
 - I see God as limiting my freedom so I rebel or reject God
 - I kill God's life within me



Effects of Sin

- Effects of sin on others
 - They become victims of my action against them
 - They are affected even if I did not act against them directly
 - Fear of crime
 - Cost of security
 - My relationship with them is wounded
 - My view of them is corrupted, I limit them to how I see them



Effects of Sin

- Effects of sin on myself
 - I begin to distort my vision of what is right and wrong
 - It becomes easier to commit the sin again
 - I begin to form bad habits
 - I either lose the ability to hold life together or I live a truncated life



Effects of Sin

- We see these in the fall
 - Adam hears God and hides from God because he sees God as one to fear
 - Adam cannot tell right from wrong and so blames God for giving him the woman
 - Fig leaves are made to protect themselves from each other - Games not Love marks the relationship
 - Kicked out of the Garden not by God but because Adam & Eve can no longer see clearly

Removing Sin & its Effects

- **Forgiveness**
 - Removes the sin
 - We confess because God first offers forgiveness
- **Confession**
 - Disclosure of sin
- **Reconciliation**
 - To be restored to a right relationship with God and the Church
- **Penance**
 - To make amends for the effects of my sins on myself and others

Forgiveness



- Forgiveness is the removal of the sin
- Being forgiven is one of the ways we come to know salvation Luke 1:77
- Forgiving others is the way we know we are becoming like God

Confession



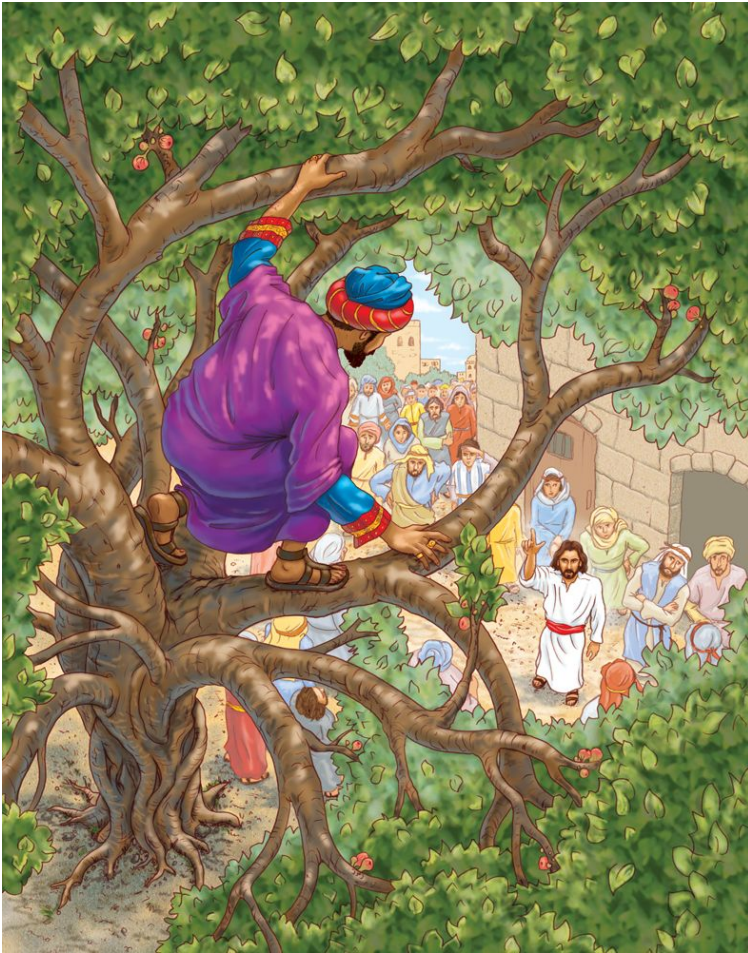
- Confession is the disclosure of sin
 - Against you, you alone have I sinned Ps 51:6
 - While sin is against God, the healing is by God
 - Confess your sins to one another James 5:16
 - We confess to a priest (who represents the whole people of God) because part of our healing, part of our learn to do God's will, is to do God's will.

Reconciliation

- Restores us to a right relationship with God and the Church
 - My sin affects the other members of the Church
- Notice that all three elements are part of and names of the sacrament
 - Name emphasizes a part



Penance



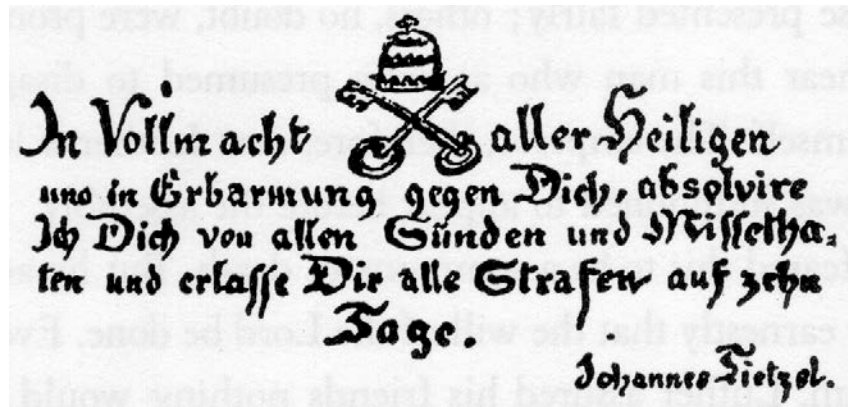
- The effects of sin are often still present after the sin is removed
 - A perfect contrition would remove the effects as well
- Penance is a way to break the habit of sin and to make amends for the wrong that I have done

Indulgences

- The Catholic doctrine of Indulgences is greatly misunderstood by both Catholics and others.
- We will look at what an indulgence is and in another PowerPoint we will look at some of the misunderstandings.



What is an Indulgence



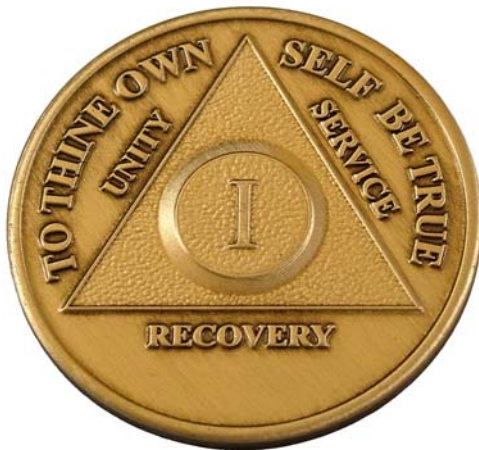
- An Indulgence is a remission of temporal punishment before God for a sin that has been forgiven
 - We have looked at forgiveness and penance
 - So we need to understand temporal punishment

Indulgences

- Temporal Punishment is the effect of the sin in both the person and in the community
 - The person in two ways
 - The habit of the sin
 - The necessary growth in love
 - The community in reaching out to show we are not alone in our journey of healing



Indulgences



- Remember the wages of sin is death (Rm. 6:23)
- God does not punish us for sin, sin punishes us. God forgives us.
- Temporal punishment is the effect of the sin as in a habit, making it easier to sin or an addiction, something had to break
 - Think of an alcoholic who has not had a drink in 5 years, they are still an alcoholic and must stay sober.

Indulgences

- The penances we do are not to be forgiven and are not because Christ's death was lacking.
- The penances we do are to break the habit of sin and form new habits by grace.
 - Prayer is a great way to learn about the peace and forgiveness of Christ first hand, in our own experience.



Indulgences



- Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are way to break the habits of sin and ways to begin to act on something other than impulses.
 - The habit of sin needs to be broken (attitude, behavior, vision)
 - The habit of love needs to replace the habit of sin

Indulgences

- Think of a person who is coming home from a year of study overseas and who picked up the habit of smoking.
 - They need to break the habit of smoking
 - when the impulse comes they need to avoid doing what they did before
 - Avoid the occasion of sin
 - They need to replace this with the love for the person they are coming home to be with
 - The joy of coming home to the person they love is the motivation to deal with the suffering of breaking a habit



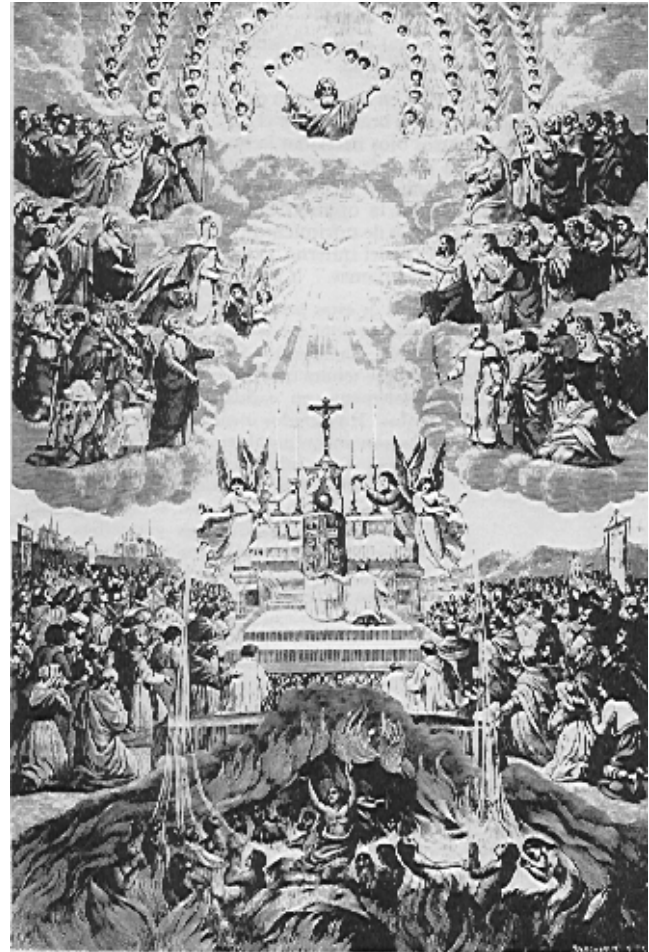
Indulgences



- The effect of sin on the community is also present.
- Sometimes the ones we hurt cannot forgive us.
- The Jesus and the Church are in the business of forgiveness.

Indulgences

- In an indulgence the Church opens for us the *Treasures of the Church* to assist us in breaking the habit of sin and replacing it with the habit of love
 - The Treasures of the Church are the Merits of Jesus and the Saints



Indulgences



- Indulgences are a reminder that we are not alone in our journey of faith
- We are bound together in Christ
 - 1 Peter 4:10
 - Distributors of God's manifold grace
 - Eph 6:18
 - Pray for all the holy ones

Indulgences and Purgatory

- Purgatory is the continuation of the healing of the effects of sin after our death
 - We pray and sacrifice for those who have died just like we do for those who are alive here
 - We are all alive in Christ even if we are not yet perfected



Summary

- Sin is its own punishment
- The effects of sin are found in the person and in the community
- Forgiveness removes the sin
- Confession acknowledges the sin
- Reconciliation restores our union with Christ and the Church
- Penance breaks the habit of sin and replaces it with the habit of love
- Indulgences are the Church's help to show we are not alone in this process
- All this is the work of Christ to heal our souls, our very life