

Obstacles to Life in Grace

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The Reality of Sin

- God gives his grace to us freely.
- Obstacles are our refusals of his gift.
- Refusals = sin.
- Sin is a deliberate free act of self-indulgence.

The Reality of Sin

- Sin = separation from God = spiritual death.
- Christian believers are not in denial about sin.
 - We acknowledge that God made us for a purpose.
 - Our freedom comes with acceptance of God's plan.
 - The only cure for sin is to make a clean break.

Avoiding The Occasions of Sin

- Avoiding influences leading us to sin.
- Beware loving the world of its own sake.
 - Materialism.
 - Lust for power.
 - Unjust domination of one person over another.
- Be wise stewards of God's creation.
 - Do everything for the glory of God.
 - Do not contribute to evils in our society.

Avoiding the Occasions of Sin

- Is your lifestyle in harmony with the Gospel?
 - Simple and detached.
 - Not satisfying the appetites of the flesh.
 - Identifying internal forces that seek to control us.
 - Temptations of human nature.

Understanding Temptations

- Not sin, but the urge to do wrong.
- Becomes sin only through choosing to act on it.
- Sinful attitudes are the basis of sinful actions.
- Can be overcome by:
 - Acknowledging sinful tendencies.
 - Claiming Jesus' victory over sin.

The Remedies for Sin

- The Sacrament of Penance
- Mortification: dying to self & rising to life.
- Prayer
- Spiritual Direction
- Contact with other vital Christians

Conclusion

- The life of grace can be lived.
- Life in the victorious power of Jesus.

De Colores!

