

By  
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The Every Catholic Guy

## The Prison

A famous architect built a prison for a Northeastern state. He watched one huge stone after another being put into place to form a large building with hundreds of cells. He saw the roof cover his building. Finally he saw one stone after another set into place to make an immense wall around the prison building. He was proud of his job. He knew that people would remember him for having built this prison.

Some years after the prison was completed the same architect was being led by two guards into one of the cells of the prison he himself had built. As he heard the iron door close behind him, he looked at the large stones of the cell where he was to spend the rest of his life. He said to himself: “What a fool I’ve been! I made my own prison.”

Each time you fall into mortal sin, you’re putting up one stone after another of your own prison. One sin after another forms a bad habit which makes you a slave. If you die in a state of mortal sin, and mortal sin condemns you forever to hell, you can say with the architect, “What a fool I’ve been! I made my own prison from which I’ll never be set free, because this prison is eternal hell!” This is another reason why you should be sorry for having offended God by committing mortal sin.

Here’re some truths for you about mortal sin you’re not going to like at all. Some of what I have to say here will get a roll of the eyes, and you may well complain that I insist on beating a dead horse. If this is the case with you, then maybe you’d best start a little interior reflection.

The first thing to point out is that most people don’t ever make it to heaven. There is a saying: “The fact that there’s a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.” Although this saying is a play on two popular songs, it has a great deal of truth to it. Everyone places focus and emphasis on the promises Jesus made, but very few people heed His warnings. Repeatedly in the Bible He warned us of the consequences of our actions, and they’re never good ones. Our Lady of Fatima made it crystal clear that few people are saved, and that most go to hell over sexual sins... and we live in a very sex-saturated culture and society.

What’s the state of your soul? I don’t know the state of your soul, and I don’t want to know. That’s above my pay grade. Still, there are some objective realities about virtue and vice—sin and sanctity—that I really ought to point out for you... again.

I won’t burden you again with the proof that Jesus established the Catholic Church, that He gave it His authority, and that He demands *absolute obedience* to the Church in all things pertaining to faith and morals. I’ll just cut to the chase on the morals thingy.

We all see the same thing every Sunday: almost everyone goes to Communion. But what do we see outside the confessional? Very short or non-existent confession lines. It's true that we're only required to go to confession once a year, but that rule only applies if all you have is venial sin. If you have mortal sin, you're required to go to confession as soon as possible.

So what makes me think people are ignoring this and that most people only have venial sin? Well, let's list a few facts. To begin, almost 99% of Catholics admit to using artificial contraception. Mortal sin. And those same Catholics do what every week? That's right, they go to Communion! That's the mortal sin of sacrilege stacked one on top of another every week. Watch those prison stones go into place!

Another thing we can actually see every week without relying on self-reporting statistics is immodesty. I've frequented crowded bars with women dressed more modestly than I see at Mass regularly—especially in the summer. (I wasn't always a Catholic, you know.) This creates a whole bevy of mortal sins from impurity to scandal. We all notice this where? In the Communion lines, so let's just add some more sacrileges. Ooh, boy, let's watch those stones stack up!

Nearly 70% of Catholic men admit to watching pornography regularly. You may enjoy it, but that's yet another stone for your hellish prison. Oh, and don't forget to add the sacrilege at Communion time!

Did you know that only 10% of Catholics provide 90% of the financial support for their parishes? Not to put money in the collection basket isn't a mortal sin, but to completely ignore the precept for a long period of time is. It's sort of like being a cashier who takes \$5 from the register. That's a venial sin. But do it daily for a year and it mounts up to a mortal sin. Go ahead and go to Communion, though, because you've got to finish building that prison.

We're morally obligated to attend Mass on every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation throughout the year, but Catholics today only show up when they feel like it. That's okay, though, because each time you fail in this obligation you get to bring your prison one stone closer to completion!

Catholics have actually told me they don't go to confession because they pray and ask God to forgive them. That's a load of baloney on so many levels, but I'll only mention two.

Firstly, Jesus is the one who forgives sin, but He alone determines how that's to be done. He established the sacrament of penance for that purpose, and that's the only ordinary way forgiveness takes place. Private prayer doesn't work; that's a heresy of Protestantism.

Secondly, you may ask God to forgive you for contraception, immodesty, pornography, failure to support the parish, missing Mass on Sunday, and a host of other sins, but even if that could work, you're still not forgiven. You see, there's this pesky little requirement God has called repentance. So you ask Him to forgive contraception, immodesty, pornography, missing Mass on Sunday, but you keep right on doing them. That's okay, though, because your prison is almost built!

Look around you. Virtually everything in our world has become evil. The time is now to decide what side you're going to take: God or the devil. If you choose God, go to confession, repent of your evils, and live as Jesus commands you to live. Death claims us all sooner or later, and only a death row inmate knows the exact moment he's going to die. You may have 70 years, so feel free to gamble. On the other hand, you may not be able to finish readi...