

Love Of God

The love of God is the highest and strictest obligation binding on all men. No one should ever forget the answer of Christ to the question: "Which is the first and greatest commandment of the law?" His words were simple, direct, and forceful: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and with thy whole soul, with thy whole mind and with all thy strength." Without the fulfillment of this law, therefore, all striving for other virtues and qualities would be without profit.

The love of God is the infused theological virtue by which we love God above all other things because of His infinite perfection and loveliness, and manifest that love in thought, word and deed. (Let it be noted again that the love of neighbor is really a part of the love of God, because it has the same motive, namely, God Himself, in whom all one's neighbors are to be loved. This will be shown in the examination on the love of neighbor.) The love of God forbids, in general, the neglect of duties and obligations that spring from love, as well as the misuse or degrading of things given by God or dedicated to Him

I. Mortal Sins

- 1. Have I neglected to fulfill the precept of going to confession at least once a year?**
- 2. Have I failed to observe the law, which commands me to receive Holy Communion during the Paschal season?**
- 3. Have I missed Mass on a Sunday or a holyday without a sufficient reason?**

4. Have I, as a mother or father or guardian, caused or permitted my children who are above the age of reason, to miss Mass on Sundays or holydays of obligation?
5. Have I induced others to miss Mass on Sundays, or approved of their so doing?
6. Have I without reason come late to Mass, missing the Offertory, or have I left before the Communion of the Mass?
7. Have I tried to do serious bodily injury to any person consecrated to God?
8. Have I engaged in servile work, such as gardening, building, repairing, sewing, laundering, etc., for more than two hours on the Lord's Day, when there was no urgent reason for doing so?
9. Have I made others work on Sunday when it was not necessary?
10. Have I broken a serious vow made to God, by which I had bound myself under pain of mortal sin?
11. Have I committed a sacrilege by receiving the Sacrament of Communion, Confirmation, or Matrimony while in the state of mortal sin?
12. Have I tried to lead a person bound to God by the vow of chastity into sin against his vow?
13. Have I stolen something valuable from the House of God, whether an article used in divine service or money given to the Church?
14. Have I deliberately mocked or made fun of the Sacraments or the Mass or any of the liturgical functions?

II. Venial Sins

1. Have I been unconcerned and indifferent about acquiring a strong and faithful love of God?
2. Have I performed my external duties to God, such as hearing Mass, saying my prayers, receiving the Sacraments, in a distracted, impersonal, halfhearted manner?
3. Have I seldom, if ever, made a real act of love of God, except such as were implicit in the fulfillment of other duties?
4. Have I been disrespectful to God's very presence in church, by profane and useless talking and worldly actions?
5. Have I failed to think of the passion and death of the Son of God in my own sufferings, thus permitting myself to grumble and complain instead of making an act of love and submission?
6. Have I been unfaithful to little promises made to God?
7. Have I never shown my love of God by means of gratitude for the many favors He has given me?
8. Have I given in to worldly desires, which I knew in the beginning to be inconsistent with the love of God?
9. Have I been so fond of some venial sin like petty gossip, or vanity, or exaggerating, that I have made no effort to overcome it?
10. Have I never made the good intention of doing everything for love of God?
11. Have I been disrespectful towards, or concerning those, whom God has placed over me and who represent God?