Viri Christi



"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence,
and men of violence take it by force."
Matthew 11:12

Objective: Spiritual Theology has been referred to as the science of the saints. It can also be referred to as the science of Christian perfection. Spiritual theology attempts to guide the soul from the very beginning of the Christian life through the purgative, illuminative, and unitive way. Over the next six months, we will investigate this "science of the spiritual life" as we discover an authentic Catholic male spirituality.

Unit 2 Podcast Schedule

- Episode #5: Original Justice
- Episode #6: Original Sin
- Episode #7: Personal Sin
- Episode #8: Salvation

I. Episode #5 – Original Justice

1. Man in Paradise (CCC 374-379) – The first man was not only created good but was also established in friendship with his Creator and in harmony with himself and with the creation around him, in a state that would be surpassed only by the glory of the new creation in Christ.

2. Original Justice: The Condition of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden

    a. The Natural Gift – Existence is always gratuitous because no one can lay claim to being called out of nothingness.

    b. The Supernatural Gift: Theology refers to this original gift of intimacy with God by the name of sanctifying grace which would have been accompanied by faith, hope, and charity.

    c. The preternatural gifts are proper to angelic nature, giving Adam and Eve four angelic privileges: immortality, immunity from suffering, infused knowledge, and integrity.

II. Episode #6 – Original Sin

1. Original Sin – "That privation of original justice inherited at birth" (*Handbook of Moral Theology*, Prummer, 69). What are the chief punishments of Adam which we inherit through original sin? The fact of original sin explains why man is so often tempted to evil and why he so easily turns from God. Because of the ignorance resulting from original sin, the mind of man has difficulty in knowing many

necessary truths, easily falls into error, and is more inclined to consider temporal than eternal things. The penalties of original sin--death, suffering, ignorance, and a strong inclination to sin--remain after Baptism, even though original sin is taken away.

2. The Remedy – "Baptism confers the Grace of Justification . . . Baptism effects: *the eradication of sins*, both original sin and, in the case of adults, also all personal, mortal and venial sins", and the "*inner sanctification* by the infusion of sanctifying grace, which the infused theological and moral virtues and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are always joined" (Ott, 377-381).

IV. Episode #7: Personal Sin

1. Personal Sin (CCC 1846-1876) – Sin is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. (CCC 1849). Sin is an offense against God: "Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight" (1850).

2. What's the difference between mortal & venial sin?

    a. Mortal sin destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God's law; it turns man away from God, who is his ultimate end and his beatitude, by preferring an inferior good to him (CCC 1855). For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be met together: grave matter (Ten Commandments), full knowledge, and complete consent.

    b. Venial sin allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it. Venial sin weakens charity and merits temporal punishment. Deliberate and unrepentant venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin (CCC 1863).

V. Episode #8: Salvation

1. The Good News (CCC 422-429) – The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners. God's saving plan was accomplished "once for all" by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ (CCC 571).

2. The Soteriological Importance of Christ's Sacrifice: **Ransom** – The slavery from which Christ purchased mankind through His sacrificial death is (Ott, 202):

    a. The Slavery of Sin (Tit. 2:14; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:12)

    b. The Slavery of the Mosaic Law (Gal. 3:13, 4:5; Rom. 7:1)

    c. The Slavery of the Devil (Col. 1:13, 2:15; Heb. 2:14)

    d. The Slavery of Death (2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:14)

3. The Soteriological Importance of Christ's Sacrifice: **Atonement** – Atonement refers to the satisfaction of a demand or the reparation of an insult and is accomplished through a voluntary performance which outweighs the injustice done. If the atonement is not performed by the offender himself, but by another in his stead it is a vicarious atonement. Christ, through His suffering and death rendered vicarious atonement to God for the sins of man (Ott, 203).