

**A Biblical Study of  
*The Catechism*  
*of the Catholic Church:*  
Bible Answers to the Most  
Frequently Asked Questions  
about Catholic Beliefs and Practices**

Dr. Jonathan Carl

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**WHAT IS SIN?**

**DO DIFFERENT  
SINS NEED  
DIFFERENT  
SACRIFICES?**

“The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in Scripture, became part of the tradition of the Church. It is corroborated by human experience” (CCC 1854)

“Grave sin deprives  
us of communion  
with God and  
therefore makes us  
incapable of eternal  
life” (CCC 1472)

“every sin, even venial,  
entails an unhealthy  
attachment to creatures,  
which must be purified  
here on earth, or after  
death in a state called  
Purgatory” (CCC 1472)

James 2:10 “For  
whoever keeps the  
whole law but fails in  
one point has become  
guilty of all of  
it.” (ESV)

James 4:17 "So  
whoever knows the  
right thing to do  
and fails to do it, for  
him it is sin." (ESV)

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)



Hebrews 7:27 “He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.” (ESV)

Romans 8:1–2 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” (ESV)

Is 1 John 2:16-17 distinguishing between different levels of sin or different ways in which we are tempted to sin?

1 John 2:16–17 “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. [17] And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” (ESV)

What does James  
2:10 mean?

What does James  
4:17 mean?

Does 1 John 1:9 say anything about different kinds of sins or different ways of obtaining forgiveness? How do we receive forgiveness? Who do we confess to according to this verse?

What does Romans  
8:1-2 mean?

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