

Romans - The Gospel of Salvation

Session 4 (Chapters 5 & 6)

November 8, 2023

How did the sin of Adam become the sin of all his descendants? The whole human race is in Adam "as one body of one man."²⁹³ By this "unity of the human race" all men are implicated in Adam's sin, as all are implicated in Christ's justice. Still, the transmission of original sin is a mystery that we cannot fully understand. But we do know by Revelation that Adam had received original holiness and justice not for himself alone, but for all human nature. By yielding to the tempter, Adam and Eve committed a personal sin, but this sin affected the human nature that they would then transmit in a fallen state.²⁹⁴ It is a sin which will be transmitted by propagation to all mankind, that is, by the transmission of a human nature deprived of original holiness and justice. And that is why original sin is called "sin" only in an analogical sense: it is a sin "contracted" and not "committed"—a state and not an act. (CCC #404)

By Baptism all sins are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin.⁶⁶ In those who have been reborn nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God, neither Adam's sin, nor personal sin, nor the consequences of sin, the gravest of which is separation from God.

CCC 1266

The Most Holy Trinity gives the baptized sanctifying grace, the grace of justification: (1992; 1812; 1831; 1810)

— enabling them to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him through the theological virtues;

— giving them the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit;

— allowing them to grow in goodness through the moral virtues.

Thus the whole organism of the Christian's supernatural life has its roots in Baptism.

Take A Deeper Look

What does it mean to enter into Christ's paschal mystery? Reflect upon the meaning of your Baptism, when you first entered into Christ's death and resurrection. Reflect on how the pattern of the sacred Triduum, from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday, is manifest in our lives. How can it become more of a reality for us?

Commit

This week, choose to see hard times in a new light — a paschal light. God is always at work, even though it doesn't always feel like it. As we go through our innumerable struggles, Christ is “stretching” us and reliving his paschal mystery in and through us. Let us unite ourselves with Christ in his agony, trusting that our own Easter Sunday will eventually follow our Good Friday.