

University of Notre Dame
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Questions From The Questionnaire.

Ques. Is it fair that a good man, dying immediately after his first mortal sin, be punished just as much as one who spends a lifetime in mortal sin?

Ans. Your good man isn't punished as much. There are degrees of punishment and misery in Hell, just as much as there are degrees of reward and happiness in Heaven. The positive torments and pains of the lifetime sinner will be very much greater, of course, than those of one who commits a single sin and then dies before repentance.

Incidentally, don't worry too much about the person who lives an exemplary life for 59 years, 364 days, 23 hours, 59 minutes, and in the last minute of his life commits a mortal sin and is instantly killed. That is possible, of course. It is, however, far more probable that God, in His mercy, will give him the grace of repentance because of his past good life. Isn't that more probable than his committing a sin at the last minute and being killed instantly?

But, nevertheless, if he should commit sin the last minute without repentance, he does go to Hell, and for eternity. This is not because of God's injustice, but because death finds him with his will fixed in rebellion against God. Mortal sin says, as Father Lord phrased it, "God, get out of my life." His will is fixed, or frozen, against God, Heaven and eternal happiness, and even the very fires of Hell cannot melt that fixed and frozen condition of his will. This final decision of the damned is irrevocable; the will is confirmed in malice and can no longer feel contrition.

The damned do not plead for mercy, which God refuses. The will is fixed in rebellion and hatred. The time for man's sorrow and God's mercy is now, here on earth.

Ques. Don't you put too much value on one Holy Communion?

Ans. Let's see what some students put a greater value on - what causes them to miss Communion even for one day. Some students prefer ten minutes more sleep in the morning, some prefer a cup of coffee, some others can't overcome inertia sufficiently to turn in to Dillon, Howard or Cavanaugh chapels, others still prefer the state of sin to the state of grace. There is one consolation, however; death readjusts our sense of values.

Ques. What is the obligation regarding lost articles?

Ans. It is hardly likely that any student is unaware of the moral law in such cases. But for safety's sake, the obligation will be stated briefly: "Finders keepers, losers weepers" applies only to such things as are certainly abandoned by their owners - that is such things as are thrown away, or walked away from by their owners (such as cats tied in gunny-sacks and deposited in the river) and to articles the owners of which a diligent search fails to reveal.

The search must be diligent and reasonable. The best method is to notify the Lost and Found Department at the Laundry in Badin Hall. You may advertise in the Scholastic. Unfortunately, the Bulletin is not able to carry ads. Lack of diligent search for the owner of a found article can change you from a possessor in good faith to a possessor in bad faith, the equivalent of theft. The same obligation applies as in theft, too - restoration on this earth or punishment in the next, in Purgatory, at least.

Through an ad in the Scholastic last Fall, a valuable watch, lost at one of the football games, was restored to a non-Catholic visitor from a state university. The return of the watch certainly boosted the visitor's respect for Catholics and their honesty. PRAYERS: (deceased) uncle of Dan McNamara (Dil); father of Bro. Antoninus, C.S.C.; father of Martin Dowling '31; mother of Eugene Sullivan '34. Ill, Bob Haines (Dil).