
What's The Difference?

A correspondent asks what is the difference between a bad thought and a bad desire?

There Is A Difference.

To illustrate--take tomorrow's game with North Carolina. Suppose--exaggeration, of course--God absolutely has forbidden all football games under the pain of mortal sin. "Thou shalt not think about, desire or play football."

The sinful thought: You decide not to obey God. You are going to think about that game, come what may, in the environment which will produce the thrilling thoughts--in the stadium. You have no desire to play--you're too fat, too skinny, too old, too young. Your role is one of spectator. . . All spectators watching the game, if all know about God's command, would be committing grave sins of football thought.

The sinful desire: On the field, crowding the sidelines, you see two dozen eager lads in full togs lying on the ground or warming the chilled benches. Call them substitutes. Each is eager to get in and play. Because of circumstances they can't--just yet anyhow. Each substitute is committing a grave sin of football desire.

The sinful deed: Eleven on the defence, eleven on the offence are actually playing this forbidden game. Each player then is committing a grave sin of football deed.

Now the kind of game you are inquiring about has very much to do with the game of life. It concerns racial instinct and racial preservation. To insure the propagation of the human race and to safeguard it from degradation, God forbids every violation of the Sixth and Ninth Commandments--every voluntary impure thought, desire, deed--contrary to these commandments. Every wilful violation would be a mortal sin. Although mortal sin, every mortal sin, is destructive of sanctifying grace, there are variations in the gravity of guilt.

Although the mere spectator at the forbidden football game commits grave sin, his guilt is not as grave as that of the substitute who actually desires to play. Nor is the substitute's guilt as grave as that of the first-teamer playing the game. Make your own comparison. Our Lord says that "anyone who looks with lust at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Football Is Not Forbidden.

Tomorrow a new football season opens. Most freshmen will be seeing their first game. The coach, his assistants, and the team--all will feel your support, or your lack of it, tonight at the pep rally. But pep rallies are just like that--lots of noise, whooping it up, introductions and CHEERS FOR GOOD OL' NOTRE DAME.

Here at Notre Dame we start our cheering the night before, but the cheering support of the student body that counts most is shown Saturday morning at the Communion Rail. If you are at peace with God, you are at peace within yourself and with everyone around you. You study better, you enjoy social contacts more, and you actually get more enjoyment out of the game. And if you are at peace with God, why not get up for Mass and receive Holy Communion--every morning!

ROSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: October is the month of the Rosary, but every day is rosary day for clients of Mary. Adoration begins Monday--the freshmen take over the first week but not exclusively. Many faithful upperclassmen will be there. Come and see!

Prayers: the sister of Mr. Frank Walker died; also mother of Albert Castollini, father of John and Art McManmon, and Mr. Hugh McCaffrey. 2 Special Intentions.