

Sin – An act against the law/will of God

We **sin** when we knowingly choose to go against the will of God - when we know what is right and wrong and we choose to do wrong.

Sins can be because we have chosen to do something that goes against God's law.

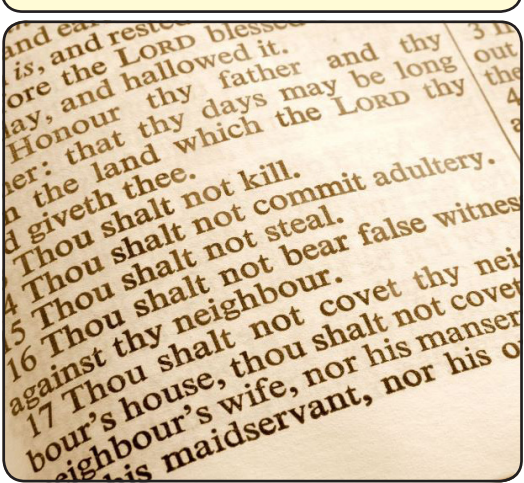
Sin can also mean doing something intentionally that causes a negative impact on others.

The Natural Moral Law – 'The Natural law is written and engraved in the soul of each and every person, because it is human reasoning ordaining the person to do good and forbidding them to sin.' Pope Leo XIII, Libertas

Mortal sin as defined by St Augustine is something said, done or desired contrary to the moral law. It is sin committed with a full knowledge and deliberate consent.

Venial sin occurs when, in a less serious matter, one does not observe the standard prescribed by the moral law, or when one disobeys the moral law in a grave matter, but without full knowledge or complete consent.

Crime – an act against the law of the country.



What are the Ten Commandments?

Are all of them crimes today?

Retribution

Making criminals pay for what they have done wrong.
"An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

Deterrence

Aims to stop/deter people from committing crimes because of the severity of the punishment.

Only God forgives sins. Since he is the Son of God, Jesus has the authority to forgive sins: 'So you may know the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins' *Mk 2:10*

This authority has been passed down through the Church: 'If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them' *Jn 20:23*. Thus by the priest's sacramental absolution God grants the penitent 'pardon and peace.' *CCC 1424*



Protection

Protect society from dangerous criminals.

The Fall of Adam and Eve - *Gen 4:1-12*

The effect of sin: Whenever I sin, I separate myself from God and others. Friendships are shattered, trust is broken and fear is created. We begin to destroy community.

What were punishments for Adam and Eve breaking God's one command?

Crime and Punishment

Reform

Rehabilitation - the aim is to help criminals to not commit further crimes once they have been released through education and support.



THE CHRISTIAN AIM OF PUNISHMENT: To show wrong-doers that their actions are wrong – help them to understand what they have done is wrong and to help them to change.

Jesus never states that someone should not be punished. However, **forgiveness** and **repentance** are also essential.

Who decides what is legally defined as a crime?

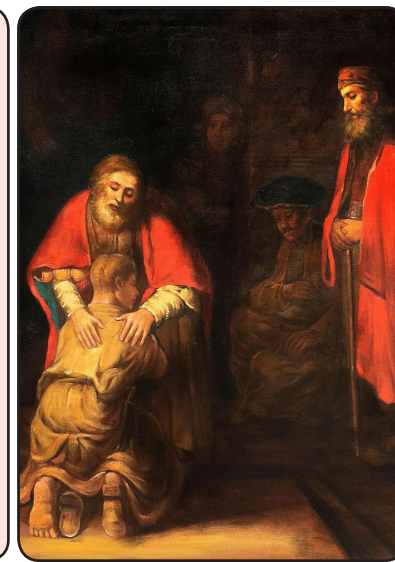
Our ever changing society and values help to determine what is legally defined as crime. Judges and law-makers are influenced by these social norms and values when they come to make definitions about what is or isn't a crime and what would be suitable punishments. By their very nature social norms and values change over time, and these changes influence the law-makers.

Link each statement numbered 1 to 5 with the correct statement from a to e.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son - *Lk 15: 11-32*

- Sin is being less than you were created to be.
- Sin is disobeying your conscience.
- Sin is breaking God's commandments.
- Sin is failing to love.
- Sin is an offence against God.

- God is offended when his children hurt each other.
- God is love. Sin is saying 'no' to love.
- God has written his law in our minds and so you should not disobey your conscience.
- Sin makes me less than the person God created me to be.
- Following the commandments leads to life, so a person must not break them.



Forgiveness is to accept someone back into the community with love.

Repentance Recognising the wrong is:

- Being truly sorry;
- Putting things right;
- Changing one's life

How have some laws and crimes in society changed?

Absolutisms: Some things are always right and some things are always wrong.

Relativism: Nothing is either right or wrong; it takes into account reasons behind an action or non-action.

How would a **relativist** and **absolutist** view:
Speeding? Stealing food?