

## OUR CASUAL VIEW OF SIN

Believers recognize the depravity of sin but many continue to have a careless attitude about it. We hear people argue, "Everyone sins at times, so don't worry about it. Confess and Almighty God will forgive."

If we are honest with ourselves about the nature of disobedience, we know that the issue is not so simple. Almighty God is faithful to forgive, but His gracious provision to cover our wrongdoing is not meant as license to transgress. Commandments are in place to protect us from enslavement, which is the natural result of consistent wrongdoing. Each choice to break the Omnipotent God's rules, even for "little" sins, adds another link to our slavery chain. Eventually, the chain will be long enough to wrap tightly around our hearts, hindering us from enjoying the Lord God's blessings.

Any sin, no matter how insignificant it seems, is rebellion against the Lord. Almighty God did not concoct "scales" for our wrongdoing; we did. We assume a lie weighs only a little, while stealing is heavy. Adultery is hefty, but less substantial than murder. Likewise we reason a lie needs only a small portion of forgiveness and grace, while murder requires a generous amount of both. Almighty God's perspective differs from this man-made notion. The Lord Jesus still had to die on the Cross to forgive us for the lie. It takes the same sacrifice to pay the penalty of adultery as it does to pardon stealing etc.

We are privileged to have a Father who breaks our human chains. However, we are not freed so that we can disobey; rather, Almighty God offers us freedom from the domination of sin and life through His Word and the Holy Sacraments of the Church, i.e. Confession and Holy Communion to name just two.

Abba Thomas