

**SIN'S EFFECT ON MAN**  
*A Basic Catholic View of Human Nature*

**Sin Disrupts All of Man's Relationships**

- Man's relationship with God, Source of all Existence (see Eph 2:1-3).
- Man's relationship with his fellow men (see Rom 1:29-30).
- Man's relationship with all of creation (see Rom 8:22).
- Man's relationship with himself (see Gal 5:17).

**Three Conditions for a Sin to be Mortal**

Objective Dimension (we are called to judge this):

**(1) Grave Matter**

- Known through Natural, Divine and Ecclesial Law

Subjective Dimension (only God can judge this and His priest in the confessional):

**(2) Full Knowledge**

- You know it is wrong (mind).
- There are graduated degrees of sufficient knowledge.

**(3) Deliberate Consent**

- Ultimately, sin (just like love) resides in the will. It is a choice.
- You choose something you know is wrong (will).
- There are graduated degrees of voluntaries.

Note: A *venial sin* requires knowledge and consent, but does not involve grave matter.

**Hierarchy Within Man's Own Self**

- ⇒ Will            Do the Good
- ⇒ *Mind*            Know the Truth
- ⇒ Passions        Emotions, Feelings

**Effect of Sin:**

- Will Weakened / Malevolent
- Intellect Darkened / Ignorant
- Passions Disordered / Rebellious

Note: Fallen Man is filled with *concupiscence* (a tendency towards sin). And as man commits *more* sin, and *graver* sin, all of these deficiencies to his will, mind and passion are *augmented*.

**The Four Cardinal Virtues**

- ❖ *Temperance*: Moderates the Concupiscible Passions.
- ❖ *Fortitude*: Strengthens the Irascible Passions.
- ❖ *Prudence*: Truthfully informs the Mind.
- ❖ *Justice*: Rightly directs the Will.

Note: These are natural; yet grace builds on nature.

**The Passions Are Controlled by Virtue or Force**

- ⇒ By One's Own Self: Through **Virtue**
- ⇒ By Another: Through **Force**
  - An internal force: *Fear* (though it normally has external provocation).
  - An external force: *Violence* (physical constraint, bodily coercion).