



## Introduction: When Sin Isn't Just "Yours"

In a hyperconnected world where our actions (or inactions) have global repercussions, the Catholic Church reminds us of something crucial: **sin is not always individual**. There is a social dimension of evil that, though rarely discussed in the confessional, stains the soul and corrodes society.

Have you ever considered that your silence in the face of injustice, your compulsive consumption, or even your political apathy could be sins? This is not about assigning blame but about shedding light. St. John Paul II warned about **"structures of sin,"** and the Catechism (1868) states that there are evils that involve us all, even unintentionally.

This article is not a judgment but a spiritual compass. We will explore:

1. **What are social sins?** (Theological and historical definition).
2. **The 7 most serious social sins today** (with modern examples).
3. **How to confess and repair them?** (Practical guide).

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## 1. Where Does the Idea of "Social Sin" Come From?

### Biblical Roots

The Bible does not explicitly use the term "social sins," but it **constantly denounces collective injustice**:

- **Sodom and Gomorrah** (Genesis 18:20): Destroyed not only for sexual sins but for their **pride, oppression of the poor, and indifference** (Ezekiel 16:49).
- **The Prophets** (Amos, Isaiah) cry out against those who "trample on the needy" (Amos 2:6-7).
- **Jesus** condemns the Pharisees for **"neglecting justice and mercy"** (Matthew 23:23).

### Development in Catholic Social Teaching

In the 19th century, the Industrial Revolution exposed new miseries: labor exploitation, unchecked capitalism, and worker abandonment. The Church responded with encyclicals like:

- **"Rerum Novarum" (Leo XIII, 1891)**: Condemns exploitation and defends workers'



rights.

- **“Quadragesimo Anno” (Pius XI, 1931):** Explicitly discusses **“social sins.”**
  - **St. John Paul II** deepened this in **“Sollicitudo Rei Socialis” (1987)**, denouncing **“economic, political, and cultural mechanisms that perpetuate evil.”**
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## 2. The 7 Social Sins You Might Be Committing

The Catechism (1868) states that **“social sin is any action or omission against justice that harms others or the community.”** Here are the most serious ones today:

### 1. Scandal (CCC 2284-2287)

- **What is it?** Leading others to sin through example or words.
- **Modern example:**
  - **Social media:** Promoting hedonistic lifestyles (e.g., influencers glorifying obscene luxury amid poverty).
  - **Media:** Normalizing abortion, violence, or corruption.

### 2. Indifference to Injustice (CCC 1938)

- **What is it?** Knowing about oppression and doing nothing.
- **Modern example:**
  - Ignoring human trafficking.
  - Failing to report workplace fraud.

### 3. Cooperation with Evil (CCC 1868, 2489)

- **What is it?** Participating (even indirectly) in immoral actions.
- **Modern example:**
  - **Buying from companies that exploit child labor.**
  - **Voting for politicians who promote anti-Christian laws** (without discernment).

### 4. Hoarding Excessive Wealth (CCC 2401, 2445)

- **What is it?** Living in extreme luxury while others starve.
- **Modern example:**



- **Compulsive shopping** in a world where 800 million suffer hunger.
- **Financial speculation** that impoverishes entire nations.

## 5. Environmental Pollution and Destruction (CCC 2415, Laudato Si')

- **What is it?** Harming Creation through neglect or greed.
- **Modern example:**
  - **Excessive plastic consumption.**
  - **Supporting companies that poison rivers.**

## 6. Public Defamation (CCC 2477-2479)

- **What is it?** Destroying reputations with lies or slander.
- **Modern example:**
  - **"Canceling" someone online without evidence.**
  - **Media smearing the Church without context.**

## 7. Neglect of Civic Duty (CCC 1915, 2239)

- **What is it?** Not voting, staying uninformed, or failing to demand justice from leaders.
- **Modern example:**
  - **"Politics isn't my thing"** (while laws attack life and family).

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## 3. How to Confess and Repair These Sins?

### Examination of Social Conscience

Before confession, ask yourself:

1. Have I promoted something harmful (e.g., gossip, consumerism)?
2. Have I turned a blind eye to injustice (e.g., poverty, abortion)?
3. Do I participate in sinful structures (e.g., unethical companies)?

### Confession and Absolution

- **Don't just say:** "I was indifferent."
- **Be specific:** "I didn't help when I saw a migrant discriminated against," or "I bought from brands that exploit children."



## Concrete Reparation

- **Boycott unethical companies** (research before buying).
- **Donate time or money to just causes** (e.g., pro-life, poverty relief).
- **Educate others** (discuss these sins in your family).

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## Conclusion: A Call to Collective Holiness

God will judge us not only for what we did but **for what we failed to do** (Matthew 25:45). Social sins are a wake-up call: **holiness is not just personal—it's communal.**

Today, ask yourself: **Am I complicit in evil through action, omission, or indifference?** The good news is that Confession and restorative justice can heal us. As St. Óscar Romero said:

| *"The Church is not a spiritual NGO. It is here to convert hearts...  
and structures."*

**Are you ready to change the world, starting with yourself?**

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**Did you find this article helpful? Share it and help us fight indifference.** God's mercy awaits us—but it also demands action!