- Any questions about the sermon on SUBMISSION this morning? Dare I answer them in the open... ;-]
- ➤ Not back in book yet questions came up after last time "Voting like a Christian"
  - o If both Dem & Rep are bad then what is the difference 6 one way; 1/2 dozen the other
  - o "I thought all sins were the same....in God's eyes?"
    - "Since they are both evil how is one is "lesser" or "greater" than the other"
- > Catechism
  - (on bulletin flap this morning)
  - O. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous? A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of various aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than other.
- > John 19:11
  - Pilate, the Jewish rulers and Judas all sinned.... but not equally heinous
  - O Jewish rulers were worse than Pilate and <u>Judas was worse than them all</u> Matt. 26:24
    - Different degrees of the same sin
  - Our laws recognize different degrees of offences.
    - Murder (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>,...) manslaughter
    - Matt. 5:21-22 to be angry with brother without cause breaks 6<sup>th</sup>
      - anger violates law against murder but not same as "murder murder"
      - Jesus even separates 3 classes/degrees of "anger murder" 5:22
        - o Court....supreme court....hell
- All sins are not the same and all laws do not carry the same weight.
  - What is the greatest commandment? Matthew 22:35-36
    - Is there then a greatest (most important/weightiest) commandment?
  - o Breaking the 1st Table of the Law is worse than breaking the 2nd Table
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Table (love of God) is greater than the 2<sup>ne</sup> Table (love of neighbor)
    - Matt. 12:30-32
      - To blaspheme the Father or Son is terrible but forgivable.
      - Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is not forgivable unpardonable sin
  - We shouldn't neglect even the least commandment...but some are LEAST
    - Matt. 5:19
    - Matt. 23:23-24
      Some laws are gnats (small)
      Some are camels (big)
      - Tithing is a gnat (small) Justice, mercy & faithfulness are camels (big)
    - Matt. 7:1-5
      - We are not to judge hypocritically....but judge righteously John 7:24
      - We are distinguish between "specks" and "logs"
- Different degrees of sin
  - O 1 John 5:16-17 some sins are "not unto death" (prayed for) some are unto death (prayer)
  - O Some kings were worse than others 1 Kings 16:25-26, 30-31 2 Kings 17:1-2
    - No moral equivalence between evil kings or kingdoms (Israel -vs Hamas)
      - We are to judge between *speck & beam* and *qnat & camel.* (R -vs- D)
  - There are sins that God hates Prov. 6:16-19 God hates all sin, but some sin "loath entirely"
  - O (Grinch movie paraphrase) "Pride, lying and shedding of innocent blood....hate, hate, double hate, loath entirely"

- o Some sins "cry out" to God
  - Gen. 4:10

The shedding of innocent blood CRIES OUT and pollutes the land

Numbers 35:33

Psalm 106:37-38

- Oppression of poor widow/orphan -
  - Ex. 22:22-24

Mark 12:38-40

- Some sexual sins are worse than other sexual sins and "cry out" to God
  - Gen. 18:20-21
  - There is a progression of depravity with sexual immorality
  - Lust Matt. 5:27-28 Incest....fornication Lev. 18 multiple partners < Adultery < homosexuality < bestiality "Natural" < "unnatural" Rom. 1:26-27
  - Sexual sins carry a unique consequence
    - O Sin against the body 1 Cor. 6:16 Rom. 1:27 (LGBTQIA-STD+)
    - o Can destroy marriage were other sins don't Matt. 19:9
    - o Reproach not wiped out Prov. 6:32-33
    - o Rahab the harlot James 2:25 David (3000 yrs still talking tagged with it)
  - The same sex act can carry different levels of guilt
    - O Judah & Tamar (Gen. 38) Gen. 38:26 "She is more righteous than I..."
- Sins against children (or childlike people) are particularly heinous.
  - o Matt. 18:6
- ➤ To return evil for good is worse than returning evil for evil.
  - o Prov. 17:13
  - All sins against God are us returning evil for God's good to us
    - We spit in the face of His kindness when we sin against Him.
- Some sins are compounded
  - o Isaiah 5:18

Rom. 2:5

- Like compound interest....compound sins pay weightier dividends
- Sins against the light
  - o Luke 12:47-48 (Romans 2:12)
  - o John 15:22 John 9:41
  - o 2 Peter 2:21
  - o Matt. 11:20-24
    - Cities that have heard the gospel and rejected it are worse than Sodom
    - OKC is guilty of a greater sin than Sodom
  - o Why was Judas' sin the worse?
    - He had the most opportunity and sold his soul for 30 pieces of silver
    - Judas sinned against The LIGHT
- ➤ None of us grasp the exceeding sinfulness of sin
  - o But we also sometimes overlook the different degrees of sin
  - o All sins are NOT the same in God's sight
  - Catechism question