

## PRACTICAL EXERCISES

For each of the following situations (numbers 1 through 6), indicate whether it describes a sin against faith, a sin against hope, a sin against charity, or a sin against religion. Then identify the specific type of sin within that category.

1. Daniel does not go to Mass or pray very much at all. When his friends ask him why, he tells them: “God is supposed to be all about love and mercy. If he is really that loving and merciful, he would not send anyone to Hell. In fact, I will bet that hell does not really exist. Everyone ends up in Heaven.”
2. Vivian considers herself to be Catholic, but she does not believe that Christ rose from the dead. She thinks the Resurrection was a story made up by the disciples in order to gain new followers.
3. Jeremy prays to God for all the things he wants in life—a good career, a nice home, and general success. When he does not feel that God is hearing him, he gets angry with God. He never takes time to consider all the gifts that God has given him, so he never even thinks of thanking God for anything.
4. Bart and Emily went to a psychic to have a séance. Emily was very close to her late uncle and wanted to contact him so that he could advise her on some issues that were happening in her family.
5. Although they consider themselves members of St. Dominic Parish, Anna and her parents do not make it to Mass every Sunday. Once or twice a month is all they seem to be able to handle. Anna’s father says that Sunday is his only day off, and so he would rather rest, watch football games, and spend time with the family.
6. Evan has led a very sinful life. He has gotten hooked on hallucinogenic drugs and alcohol; he has stolen cash from his employer; he has had a series of sexual relationships even though he has never been married.

Now and then he comes to realize how wrong and sinful he has been, but he decides that he has done so much sinning and has sunk so low that God would never be able to forgive him.

For numbers 7 through 10, name the type of prayer indicated—adoration, petition, thanksgiving, or contrition. (Some arguably may reflect more than one type.)

7. “Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”
8. “We give you glory, almighty God, for your goodness and mercy.”
9. “Lord, I come to you with gratitude for all the gifts you have given me today.”
10. For all those who are sick, especially my grandmother, we pray to the Lord.”
11. Write out the words of the Lord’s Prayer (the Our Father). How many different types of prayer do you find? Put slash marks between each type of prayer and write above each segment what type of prayer is indicated.
12. Read and take note of the principles found in the following Scriptural passages that condemn superstition:
  - Lv 19:26; 19:31; 20:6; 20:27
  - Dt 13:2-4
13. Discuss and enumerate several classes of superstition. Analyze and assess their plausibility. Do these superstitions describe what is real in any way? Why would anyone believe them?