

Catechism Lesson 3: Obligation to Profess the Faith and Judge and Punish Sinners

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The Catholic obligation to profess the faith

1. Catholics must profess the faith when necessary and if possible, which includes sufficiently condemning sin and admonishing and denouncing sinners.
2. However, it is not necessary, and in some case harmful, for Catholics to profess the faith to everyone. *“Speak not in the ears of fools because they will despise the instruction of thy speech.”* (Prv. 23:9) *“Give not that which is holy to dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine.”* (Mt. 7:6)
 - a) A Catholic is only obliged to profess the faith to non-Catholics when he speaks to them directly and they bring up the subject of religion or when God or the Church explicitly commands him to do so; such as when Jesus commissioned the disciples to preach (Lk. 10).
 - b) A Catholic is only obliged to profess the faith to Catholics when they are guilty of mortal sin or persistent venial sins or when God or the Church explicitly commands him to profess the faith to Catholics who are guilty of non-persistent venial sins or faults. It can be harmful for Catholics to pick on one another regarding venial sins and faults (See Gal. 6:1-5).

Catholics must judge sinners including mortally sinful superiors

3. In order to condemn sin and denounce sinners, Catholics must make judgments as to what is sin and who is a sinner. Hence when obliged to, Catholics must condemn sin and judge and denounce sinners, including mortally sinful superiors.

For detailed information regarding the topics in this section, *RJMI Topic Index: On Judging.*

The Catholic obligation to punish sinners

4. Catholics are obligated to punish sinners if necessary and possible.
5. However, it is not necessary to punish every sinner but only those who merit punishment. And the punishment must be mitigated with mercy if the sinner’s repentance merits mercy.

Sins of omission

6. A Catholic commits a sin of omission by not sufficiently condemning sins or for not sufficiently admonishing, denouncing, or punishing sinners when he is obliged to; and in so doing, he shares equally in the guilt of the sin or sinner.

For detailed information regarding the topics in this section, see *RJMI Topic Index: Sins of Omission.*

The heresies of non-judgmentalism and non-punishmentalism

7. The heresy of non-judgmentalism denies the Catholic obligation to condemn, admonish, or denounce sinners.
8. The heresy of non-punishmentalism denies the Catholic obligation to punish sinners.

For detailed information regarding the topics in this section, RJMI's *Topic Index: Non-Judgmentalism and Non-Punishmentalism*.

For the glory of God; in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Michael, St. Joseph, Ss. Joachim and Anne, St. John the Baptist, the other angels and saints; and for the salvation of men

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Mary's Little Remnant

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