

The Way of Faith

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 21*.

❖ The First Commandment tells us to believe in God and to love him above all else. It forbids worship of “other gods.”

PAGE 199

❖ A sacrilege is a violation of and irreverence toward a person, a place, or an object that is sacred because of public dedication to God. Examples include defacing church property or stealing a consecrated vessel from a church.

PAGE 200

❖ Astrology is the belief that the sun, moon, planets, and stars control our lives. It goes against our Catholic belief in free will and God’s providence. Spiritualism, such as a seance, is an occult practice because it is an attempt to contact the souls of the dead. Other occult practices are witchcraft and Satanism.

PAGE 200

❖ A cult is a system of misguided religious beliefs that centers around a strong religious leader. People can be brainwashed and led to do strange things.

PAGE 200

❖ A sin against hope is despair, in which people do not have enough trust in God’s goodness and mercy. Another sin against hope is presumption, in which people presume to be able to save themselves or assume that God will forgive them even if they do not repent from their sins.

PAGE 201

❖ Following Jesus’ example, we can share our deepest thoughts with God. Prayer is the way we talk to God. The four types of prayer are adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and supplication.

PAGE 201

❖ A sacrifice is a gift given to God. It is a sign of all the types of prayers we pray.

PAGE 202

❖ The Second Commandment tells us to honor God’s name and to use it with love and respect.

PAGE 202

❖ A vow is a free promise made to God to perform a good act not required for salvation.

PAGE 202

❖ To swear is to take an oath. Anyone who lies under oath violates the Second Commandment and asks God to witness a lie. This is the sin of perjury. Other sins against the Second Commandment are profanity, cursing, and swearing. Words that insult the goodness of God or show hate for God are blasphemy.

PAGE 202

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