

Indulgences

Broken Down into Sixteen Simple Propositions of Faith

1. We sin, and our sin offends God, our neighbor, and even ourselves.
2. Jesus Christ came to forgive sin and its ultimate consequence, death.
3. We are forgiven by God of our venial sins when we sincerely ask for forgiveness.
4. When our sins are mortal, we must receive the Sacrament of Penance.
5. Even when forgiven by God, certain effects of sin continue to wound us.
6. We must be purified of these wounds in order to enjoy life in heaven as God intends.
7. Our acts of penance in this life help purify us and prepare us for heaven.
8. That purification still needed after death is realized in what we call Purgatory.
9. The Church on earth prays for the purification of those experiencing Purgatory.
10. An indulgence is an act of supplication which aids our purification.
11. An indulgence is an act of recourse to the merits of Christ for our purification.
12. We can seek an indulgence for ourselves, or for those who have died.
13. Indulgences involve certain intentions and conditions given by the Church.
14. By seeking an indulgence, we are simply asking God to purify those in need.
15. Grace and its merits always originate with God, out of love for us, for our good.
16. We can never purchase or earn God's grace, but receive it in faith and love.

For more reflection, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1471-1479.