

# The Sacraments

October 8, 2016

Catholic justification (through baptism) brings *habitual grace*, or a state of grace. *Actual grace*, or supernatural and temporary help against sin, is replenished through the sacraments.

The sacraments contain God's grace and channel it to the faithful. This grace is not irresistible or efficacious; individuals must cooperate with this grace, or be *properly disposed* to receive God's sanctifying grace through the sacraments. Sacraments are necessary for salvation (again, remember the Catholic understanding of "salvation," which confuses justification with sanctification). Pursuing the sacraments results in sanctification: preserving justifying grace and perfecting justifying grace.

## *Sacraments of Initiation*

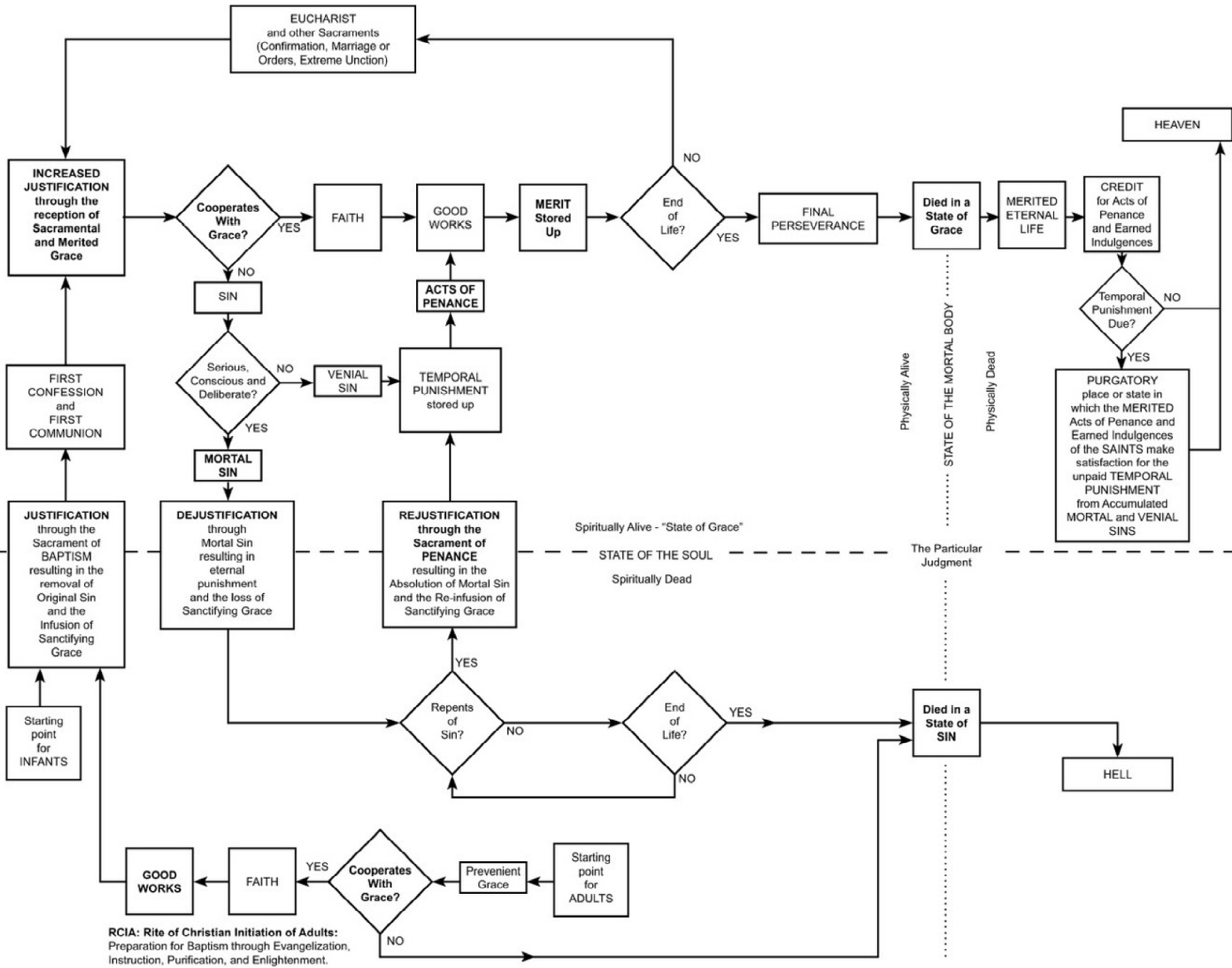
1. Baptism
  - a. For infants (born to Catholic families)
    - i. Washes away original sin
    - ii. Infuses justifying/sanctifying grace, beginning the process of salvation
    - iii. Is the "instrumental cause" of justification by faith—not faith exercised by the infant, but rather by the parents, family, and priest
    - iv. Joins the child to the Roman Catholic Church
  - b. For adults (converting to Catholicism)
    - i. Evangelism: must demonstrate cooperation with actual (prevenient) grace
    - ii. Instruction: must adhere to theological or confessional faith
    - iii. Purification and enlightenment: must demonstrate good works
2. Eucharist
3. Confirmation
  - a. A special strengthening by being sealed by the Holy Spirit
  - b. Usually around age 12 after a time of doctrinal instruction
  - c. Sometimes referred to as a "personal Pentecost"

## *Sacraments of Healing*

4. Penance
  - a. Is a necessary "rejustification" for mortal sins, also called "reconciliation"
  - b. Consists of confession to a priest, contrition, judgment by the priest, absolution by the priest, and penance prescribed by the priest
5. Anointing of the sick (extreme unction)

## *Sacraments of service (optional)*

6. Matrimony
  - a. Established as a sacrament because of the Vulgate's mistranslation of Ephesians 5:32, "*Sacramentum hoc magnum est*"
  - b. Held as a privilege to be bestowed by the church
7. Holy Orders
  - a. To the episcopate as bishops
  - b. To the presbyterate as priests
  - c. To the diaconate as deacons



**RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:**  
Preparation for Baptism through Evangelization, Instruction, Purification, and Enlightenment.