

ELEMENTS OF TEMPTATION SEQUENCE

1. A set of normal physiological and/or psychological needs and/or appetites.
2. An ability to be attracted to an object capable of attracting a normal need or appetite.
3. An object capable of attracting a normal need or appetite.
4. An emotion of attraction toward an attracting object.
5. An active desire to satisfy a normal need or appetite by means of a attracting object.
6. An establishing of a desire as a settled disposition In favor of the satisfaction of a normal need or appetite by means of an attracting object.
7. An opportunity to implement a nettled disposition in favor of the satisfaction of a normal need or appetite by means of an attracting object.
8. A movement of volition (an act of will) committing one to a course of action, in an attempt to satisfy a normal need or appetite by means of an attracting object.
9. An action which attempts to satisfy a normal need or appetite by means of an attracting object.

Suppose, now, that we add one additional element:

A prohibition (imposed by some authority) of the satisfaction of a normal need or appetite by means of an attracting object.

If we insert this additional element between any two consecutive numbers In the temptation sequence listed above, where does sin enter the picture? At what point does temptation become sin?

3. Are some sins more sinful than others?
 - a. In themselves?
 - b. In their effect on God?
 - c. In their effect on other human beings?
 - d. In their effect on the sinner himself/herself?