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Peter Hitchens Calls GTA VI Electronic Poison

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Electronic poison"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Peter Hitchens played Grand Theft Auto VI, the biggest video game launch of the year, and tried to take his character to church to confess his sins. He could not get inside one. In his Daily Mail column on 20 November 2026, the British commentator called the game "electronic poison" that "undermines 2,000 years of Christian civilization" - and said he was "perfectly serious" about the church visit.

It is a strange image, and Hitchens knows it. A newspaper columnist, a former atheist turned Christian, sitting beside a gaming journalist and steering a digital criminal through the neon streets of Vice City.

The character steals, fights and breaks the law, because that is what the game is for. Then Hitchens asks the question no one else in the room was asking: where does this man go to say sorry?

The game was released on 19 November 2026, and it made about $3.79 Billion in first-day worldwide retail sales - one of the biggest entertainment launches in history. Millions of people bought it on the first day.

Hitchens played it with a Daily Mail gaming colleague, and after a string of virtual misdeeds he asked to "find a church, preferably Roman Catholic, where our character can confess his misdeeds to a priest". His search failed. There was no church he could enter in Vice City.

That last point needs care, because later fact-checking added a wrinkle. A church building does exist in the game - Sunside Church, in Vice City - but it cannot be entered.

Players can see it, but they cannot walk through its doors. Hitchens's search failed in the way that mattered: he could not take his character inside a church to confess.

The building stands there, locked to the player, which in some ways makes his point sharper rather than weaker.

Hitchens is not a man who dabbles in popular culture for fun. He is the younger brother of the late Christopher Hitchens, the famous atheist writer, and his own journey went the other way - from unbelief to Christian faith.

He writes about morality and tradition, and the slow decay of the things he believes hold a society together. When he calls something "electronic poison", he means it as a diagnosis, not a joke.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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