

## The Seven Deadly Sins (Vices)

Virtue is making the intellect and good sense control your passions and needs and desires. A vice is whatever does not do this. A vice can even disguise itself as a virtue. A virtue can be mingled with a vice too.

Christianity warns against the seven deadly sins. These are more precisely vices. The Catechism of Christian Doctrine (Catholic Truth Society Publication) says that they are called deadly sins for they are so dangerous as they are the root causes of all sins.

John Cassian, a theologian, came up with eight deadly sins. He listed, avarice, fornication, anger, sloth, gluttony, vainglory, pride, and depression as the sins.

Pope Gregory the Great came up with traditional list of seven, pride, envy, anger, depression/despair, avarice/greed, gluttony and lust.

The list in The Catholic Catechism of Christian Doctrine goes: pride, gluttony, greed, envy, sloth, lust and anger. It is scandalous that a religion should condemn depression. This list seems to avoid doing that. Don't be deceived. Depression is not just sadness for no reason. The depressed person may feel angry or that they are not getting enough out of life - greed. Depression and at least one of the deadly sins will be inextricably linked. We abhor anything that explicitly or implicitly attacks those who suffer from depression. Even a doctrine that causes a person to ask themselves if they are sinning by being depressed is to be severely opposed.

The Christians see the deadly sins as bad enough but they are worse when they become vices. A vice is a habit of sin. A vice is not a temptation. Do not confuse the vice and temptation.

The vice of pride lurks behind Christian so-called virtue.

The Church says pride is a sin for it is needing and wanting others to fail so that you can seem superior. The Church says that there is a virtue called magnanimity which means you want to be great for God and that you depend on him for this greatness. It denies that this is pride. If you want to be great for yourself that is pride and wanting an advantage over others. But if you want to be great for God that is still wanting an advantage. It is in fact worse to want to be great in the eyes of a perfect God than it is to want to be great in your own sight.

Pride is the root of all the deadly sins. It is the ultimate sin from which the other six deadly sins proceed. Pride means you think you know better than God what is right and disobey him by becoming angry or slothful or covetous etc. St Thomas Aquinas taught that pride was the ultimate sin and he defined it as taking credit for your own achievements and not attributing them entirely to the work of God. For example, Jesus said as often as you hurt one of his brethren you hurt him. So when you get praise you should respond, "Give it to God for my actions not me". (Of course Christianity is so hypocritical it won't do that.) This arises from the Christian notion that God gives us every second of our lives and we would turn back into the nothing we came from if he took his power away. We owe him everything. It arises also from the notion that God gives you help to do good works for him. He puts holy thoughts in your head and holy desires in your heart and heals the weakness in your will that draws you to sin. Christians are forbidden to boast or glory in their good deeds (Romans 4, Ephesians 2). They believe God has given a plan for salvation that gives us no reason to think we do anything worthwhile of ourselves but that God does it for and in and through us. In reality, pride is thought to be equal to self-esteem.

The opposite of pride is humility. Humility is seeing yourself as no better than what you are. The stronger a person's belief and trust in God is, the more humble they can be in the Christian scheme. The more you believe you depend on God to exist and that he is behind the good you do more than you are the more humble you will be. The person of weak faith or the atheist thinks or believes that he makes himself what he is. The Church sees that as the sin of pride. Even if a Christian were to make the mistake of thinking its not a sin to be an atheist, she will have to believe that atheism directly and indirectly causes sin. Its not sinful in itself then but leads to sin and thus there can be no salvation or Heaven for the atheist.

If an atheist can't be truly humble and has to fake humility is that the kind of person you would want to employ or marry? Christian morality threatens the rights of atheists. It certainly raises the question, "Should I discriminate?" That alone is intolerable enough.

The humility of the Christians is faked. If your existence depends on nature or God, that does not mean you are unable to be a self-made person. God and nature will give you the power to be what you want to be. So the Christians are lying about

their dependence on God being humbling. They slander the atheist who says he finds his dependence on nature humbling. They call him a liar at least in their hearts. Even the most arrogant billionaire knows he depends on certain things to allow him to be what he is. That does not affect his arrogance. He is in fact arrogant because of it. He feels threatened which is why he needs to be arrogant. Arrogance is about self-protection. Are Christians using God to hide their own pride of which they are ashamed?

The atheist or religious sceptic learns to accept that his life is short and that apart from friends and family there is nobody to care about him. He is not greedy for love and accepts what he has. The believer is unsatisfied. Out of greed and pride he wants to think he is loved by God. Only the sceptic about God or the unbeliever in God has the power to minimise what are called the deadly sins. Religion actually thrives on them. No wonder it is generally so ineffectual in stopping the sins and indeed other sins too.

The Christians can never prove that God wants them to have the thoughts and feelings they have. They say evil is a reality. God has to have strange ways to keep it in some kind of check. He could ask you to suffer depression forever for some good purpose. It is the height of arrogance to claim that your good thoughts and feelings are really directly sent by God. You are making yourself judge over God.

The Christian who does good and says it is all down to God is denying the Christian doctrine of personal responsibility. Even if God helps you do the good you are responsible for it. You may be using his resources but it is still your work. The Christian is telling a barefaced lie when she says that her good works show only the power of God in her life and that she is nothing. There is no authentic humility in that.

The atheist can be humble. The believer cannot.

Christianity says it should be understood as a faith that works to make us humble in the sight of God. Jesus atoned for sins and rose from the dead to save us from sin - specifically pride. But it can't make us humble. It makes us hypocrites. The whole faith is a hoax and a sham. When the foundation is fraudulent the whole structure is no better.

The Christian man and woman dress up for Church. Do they really want people to think, "I praise you God for these people looking so well!"? and never, "They look well." Do they really want people to keep the focus on God and not them?

If Christianity opposes pride, the result will be the harassment and pressuring and downgrading of people who don't have a strong faith. The Church wants to create an addiction not to God but to the Church's claims about God and what he has said. This is an extreme love of control and power.

There is nothing wrong with rational realistic pride.

The way pride is linked to God and made a sin implies that atheists and people who are not sure of God's existence are dangerous and full of pride. They are sinners if pride is a sin and we are to give all the glory to God. It is a sectarian bigoted idea. For Christians to teach it is sheer arrogance. They are being prideful. We cannot get away from our pride. We can warp it, we can hide it, we can disguise it, but it is still there.

Christianity teaches that since we are to love God with all our hearts and be willing to be tortured to death for him if we were asked to suffer that that all failures with respect to love for God manifest the sin of pride. To be glad then that God called you to be a priest and as a result you have prestige in your community and a swanky house and car instead of asking you to suffer dreadfully for him would be the sin of pride. It shows that you are glad not to have had the chance to prove your complete love for God.

The experts all disagree on what God has said so to avoid the sin of pride you have to submit in humility to men telling you what to think about God and this concept is what you call God. It is really a form of idolatry.

The Church ignores the fact that if you put so much value on your interpretation of evidence for God and on your understanding of God that you would die for it, that is pride in the extreme! You never die for God but for your understanding of God and the reasons he might be thought to exist!

With religion there are far more shoulds and shouldn'ts than there would be without it. There are all those extra rules to be kept. If you say somebody should do something, you are saying you know better than they do and they are bad if they do not do what you say. Religion then with all the extra shoulds is actually exacerbating pride! It is easily seen why the bitterest and most evil-minded people out there are often to be found in the chapel.

The happy Christian is always a haughty one. He smugly thinks he is in God's in group. He thinks he is being saved from sin which makes him superior to those who are not bothering much with God and his saving grace. He says he is a sinner

and being healed. He says he sins and that seems to make him humble but not when he claims that he is being saved from it. He refers to his sins to bolster his pride. "Oh I am so great for I admit my sins."

Since pride is the root sin and the cause of the deadly sins it follows that all sins are based on the notion of independence from God. Take the deadly sin of sloth or laziness - it is wrong because it is neglecting to do work for God. The sin includes the sin of apathy which is not caring much for the things of God – the commonest sin in Christendom. The sin of lust is a sin for you are not seeing the beauty of God in another person but treating the person as a thing not a mirror of God. The sin of gluttony is bad because God made food to feed you not for you to overdo it with so once you are filled or satisfied you should stop eating. The sin of envy, wanting what another has for yourself instead of them, is a sin not because you want to take something away from another person. It is a sin because you want to have what God gave them as if you are wiser than God. If you are angry it is because you don't believe God uses even sin for his own purposes to bring good out of the evil.

Envy is when instead of taking pleasure in what you have, you endure pain at the thought of what others have. If envy is a sin then is it a sin because it hurts you even if it never or need never hurt anybody else? Or is it a sin as it implies you don't love others enough? Or is it a sin because it hurts you and longs to see others lose what they have? If its hurting you is not the reason, then it follows that others do not matter either when you don't matter. So loving them cannot matter. If envy is a sin because it hurts you then it is really right to say envy is the sin? Would it not be better to say that it is not envy that is the problem but that it hurts you? So hurting yourself is the sin not envy. If the problem is your failure to love others then to love you is to love you as somebody who would hurt them if he or she could find a way. Condemnations of envy are manifestations of self-righteous hypocrisy.

We only feel jealous and envious when we see the other person as being our equal and feel we should have the good things she or he has or that we think she or he has. That could be why equal rights people are often so hostile and are in the grip of a rabid sense of entitlement. Interestingly, pride tells you to consider others on the same level as yourself. But we see that it is the virtue of humility that risks you being spitefully jealous and envious. Humility can seem like the real deal until that happens. When it does it is really pride that borders on humility but that is not true humility.

Pride is envy in the sense that you will suffer if others are better than you. As all the sins are rooted in pride, it follows that they are all tainted with envy.

The sins imply that you are nothing and God is everything. If anything, they would put most people and all sane people off religion. And since religion likes to control the moral instruction people get, this will have the result of people going off the rails altogether. They will see it that as they reject the religion and the poison it spews they will scrap anything good they are taught too for it will hold no credibility for them. Such people need the help of atheists and secularists to become decent members of society.

We all have an inordinate pride in ourselves. We need that pride to get out of depression. There is no start to recovery without arrogance. In depression, everything inside you tells you there is nothing to feel even a little good about. You have to choose to ignore this evidence and rise above it. You need to see yourself as better than what your perception tells you. You need to be defiant and arrogant.

The deadly sins are really a charter for the persecution of heretics, atheists, philosophers, and weak apathetic believers. They incite to hatred.

Gluttony means you should not eat more than what you need. We all eat too much. And nobody is clear on what they need. Eating sweets must be a sin for you certainly do not need them.

In relation to greed, when the popes had temporal power and tremendous wealth they said it was the will of God and it wasn't pride or greed that was behind it. The clear message is that you can do what you like as long as your heart is clean. For example, you can persecute heretics as long as you do it out of a feeling of love.

Making anger a sin was a clever way of stopping the people from protesting against the unjust actions of the clergy and from raging against God. If anger is a sin then anger against the men who represent God and who rule his kingdom for him as his vicars must be the worst form of anger. Anger involves a feeling that you would like to do harm and be violent in some way and yet the Church approves of the story of its angry Jesus thrashing up the Temple.

Covet means you desire something somebody else has and wish you had it instead of them. The sin of wishing you could do something bad to take it off them is a higher level of covetousness. It is seen as selfish to want to enjoy something instead of your neighbour enjoying it. He is not seen as selfish for enjoying it and not giving it to you to enjoy it instead of him! The commandment implies that you must not consider yourself as important but consider others as important.

The ten commandments given by God in the Bible end with two commandments forbidding one to covet his neighbour's goods or animals or wife. They are concerned with desire. They forbid unlawful desire even if you won't act upon those

desires. The wish of some that they had the holiness and virtue some person has instead of that person is also covetousness. It proves that it isn't necessarily selfless and altruistic to want to be holy and virtuous!

The anti-covetousness commandments contradict, "Love your neighbour as yourself", as popularly interpreted. If you keep the anti-covetousness commandments, you would naturally have to wish that you had half of what the person has. He has half and you have half. It fits, "Love your neighbour more than yourself", far better.

Lust is treating a person as a sexual object. In other words, it cares only about the pleasure of sex and not the person you have sex with. Lust is just about the sex. If the husband wasn't treating his wife as a sexual object then she wouldn't need to wear lingerie. The fact is that we are made to treat people as objects up to a point. Lust is the only sin Christianity fusses about. Christianity allows all the other deadly sins despite its lip service condemnations of them. You are allowed wealth if you are a pope for example and convince yourself you are not greedy. But lust is never allowed.

Lust is distinguished from the kind of love known as eros. Eros is romantic love. Because the lovers torment themselves when the loved one does not want them and hate the loved one and don't want the loved one to be happy with anybody else it is an inherently selfish form of love. It is selfish to torture yourself over somebody that does not want you. Lust and eros both have the power to be very destructive. Eros can exist without lust. Eros only is fun sometimes. Most of the time it brings pain. Sometimes and sometimes all the time it brings torment and sadness and it cannot be chosen or controlled.

Lust is selfishly using another to gratify a desire. So is eros. With lust you can use somebody for five minutes and then it's all over and forgotten. The using only took place for a short time. But with eros you try to make the object of your desire addicted to you so that when you are not around they will suffer horribly. Eros is worse than lust.

Lust can be controlled. Eros cannot. Eros is more powerful.

Lust can be made very safe. Eros cannot. People in love often pass on dangerous diseases to each other in sex. Lust never forces somebody to have sex without a condom. With lust you can avoid the occasions where you might do something stupid. Eros is an addiction and increases the chance of doing something crazy. The lovers get blinded by passion.

Lust can bring less pain than eros. People assume that it is only good things that can be abused. This is incorrect. Bad things can be abused too in their own way.

Eros is not love. It might be the feeling of love but this love not about putting another person first for themselves but about putting another first to satisfy your need to. The love is an illusion - a bait. If you really care about somebody you will not want them to suffer an addiction to you. End of.

Romantic love and eros are different but they are cut from the same cloth. If lust is wrong so is eros. And eros must be more wrong!

Eros as a basis for marriage would have to be a necessary evil for the sake of producing children. This would imply that contraceptive sex and homosexuality are wrong.

Eros and parental love are upheld as the main forms of love in the world. Yet both are about fulfilling the needs of the one that loves. They will lead to good deeds but the ultimate motive behind those deeds is the wish of the lover or parent to fulfil their own need to do these things and have loving feelings. They are selfish. And yet the world makes a big drama about some people teaching egoism, the view that we must look after others for our own fulfilment so that our motive is to help ourselves rather than others. We help them to help ourselves feel good. We do it for that prize.

The sins are more about what is in the heart than what you do. Christians would say that when Jesus, who was God, commanded the Jews to kill homosexuals by stoning it was out of love to stop people copying the example of the homosexuals and to give euthanasia to the homosexuals who were better off dead than gay. They have no choice but to rationalise like that. The seven sins are dangerous.

It is illogical and irrational thinking that does more harm than these sins. The person who is too proud does wrong through his stupid thinking not his pride. Yet irrationality and wilful stupidity are not listed as deadly sins. Lying was omitted because Christian theologians and leaders are famous for looking at arguments against their religion and ignoring them which amounts to lying. They even use arguments that have been proven to be faulty years ago to convince gullible people today that the faith has any credibility.

Love the sinner and hate the sin pretends that sin is something that a person does but which is not part of the person. It pretends that a you as a person is just there like something static and degrades you by saying that you are not a doer. Love the sinner and hate the sin implies that that people should and often do love you more not less because your sins. If you

really believed the rule can be kept you would love it when people imagine that you are guilty of an astronomical amount of sins.

Sin is more than just part of a person, it says what kind of person they are. The person is the sin. We feel personal hatred for sin and the rule asks us to pretend that we don't. It asks us to hate people but to hide it. The rule itself should be classed as a deadly sin! Its hypocritical nonsense. It is worse than any of the deadly sins. It is extreme pride to pretend that your hatred for a person is really love!

Society used to love the seven deadly sins. The ban on greed and pride was useful for stopping people from trying to better themselves. If they showed ambition and good business acumen they were accused of these sins. They were manipulated to accuse themselves of such sins for trying to do well in life.

Modern Christians today are so hypocritical that they can endure any sin but the alleged sin of being judgemental. This "sin" is not listed at all in the seven deadly sins. It could be understood as an act of pride and envy. Very fair and humble judgement however would be seen as a virtue.

The Christians define selfishness as the sin of looking out only for yourself. The selfish person is nice to others only because he has an agenda. His niceness is just a means to get what he wants out of life without any real regard for others. All sin consists of selfishness. Despite Christianity's boast that it loves the sinner and hates the sin, the truth is that it is demonising those who it finds guilty of selfishness. It ignores society and modern psychology's near consensus that everybody is a mixture of both selfishness and unselfishness and nobody is ever completely one or the other. Christianity will naturally agree with society and modern psychology but will not admit it. Christianity does not really love the sinner but hates him for it smears him. Its loving the sinner and hating the sin doctrine stems from its arrogance. Pride would be too soft a word for it.

Unconditional love is supposed by Christianity to be the only true love. The one who loves you unconditionally will love you no matter how evil you get - even if you become evil itself. This is because you are loved simply because you are a person. But you cannot love somebody if their personhood becomes evil for that is to love evil. The objection that this is merely hypothetical misses the point. If you wouldn't love even then, your unconditional love is not as unconditional as it seems. Its a pretence.

Christianity would say the whole system of religion it has is all about healing the seven deadly sins. If so, the whole system is corrupt. Its miracles fail to prove its claims for only corruption can support corruption. Satan must be behind them if they are real!

For secularists the tendency to religious faith is a deadly sin ...