

The Seven Deadly Sins

How Wicked are You?

Cwg hopes to bring smiles to u3a faces on a Monday morning but more importantly to address from time to time urgent issues of the day and the way we live our lives in these present challenging circumstances. And nothing is more pressing than to examine our own moral compass in the C21st.

Thus we have taken this opportunity to reflect on 'The Seven Deadly Sins', a construct devised by the early Christian Church to which people through the ages have turned as an exemplar of moral goodness. (By avoiding them, not committing them.) They serve to warn us all of the dangers of following a path which personifies wickedness in all its forms.

Here therefore is a handy list of 'The Seven Deadly Sins' for the benefit of SEL u3a readership with illustrations of dodgy behaviour constituting a lack of moral fibre (no pressure) and placing the perpetrator in mortal danger. You have been warned.

Take the test to see where you are on this scale of doubtful repute. For clarity we have cross-referenced where possible as you may be committing more than one sin at anyone time and not even realise it! The survey is anonymous and you will not be required to send up your scores to the u3a Committee

Tick all that apply:

Avarice

'excessive or insatiable desire for wealth or gain'. (Think Ebenezer Scrooge visited by Marley's Ghost, Jacob not Bob that is).

Have you ever:

1. Bought a Lottery ticket and then gone back and bought another one with the money you had intended to donate to Medecins Sans Frontieres?
2. Cheated at Monopoly when playing with your grandchildren because although you knew the houses and hotels were only bits of plastic you just had to have them and were prepared to go to jail to acquire them?
3. Become a compulsive hoarder unable to throw anything away 'in case it might be valuable' and subsequently needed mental health support and become a drain on the NHS?

Wrath

'an emotion characterised by antagonism towards someone or something you feel has deliberately done you wrong'. (See the Old Testament for multiple examples often including the word 'smote').

Have you ever:

1. Had a bit of a tantrum in a public place because your partner went to the loo and did not come back for over 35mins? (Or never came back at all?)
2. Got a bit stroppy on the phone with someone who asked you if you were having a nice day?
3. Fantasised about having a confrontation with someone from HMRC (if you could ever get to talk to one of them) and telling them they were cheating b*****s and you don't owe them anything.? On the contrary they owe you at least £1.5 million and you want it by Friday.

Sloth

'an inability to do much because of lack of motivation'. (Probably a bit depressed but haven't spoken to the GP yet and not to be confused with a group of arboreal Neotropical xenarthran mammals who are in fact very lazy).

Have you ever:

1. Gone to your u3a group wearing a big coat, even in a heatwave, because you couldn't be bothered to get out of your pyjamas before leaving home?
- 2'. Stayed on the bus because you were too lazy to get off?
3. Been called a b*****y lazy b*****d?

Lust

Dante who knew a thing or two about this one defines it as 'a disordered love for someone (or even a number of people at the same time). You may be relieved to know that this one was considered the least grievous of the seven sins. (Sighs of relief throughout SE London).

Have you ever:

1. Fancied your neighbour's husband/wife/ ox/ass/au pair? (In no particular order).
2. Wished you could have a night out with Mr. Darcy (assuming you are female but not necessarily) only to be bitterly disappointed to find out he isn't real?
3. Furtively settled down to read an interesting book called 'Lust' only to be bitterly disappointed to find out it was called 'Lost' and was in fact a 'History of Misaid Luggage' on tfl?

Gluttony

'excessive desire for food' (This it must be noted includes alcohol also).

Have you ever:

1. Taken a whole packet of McVities chocolate Hobnobs to bed and eaten the lot? (And please see Lust above).

2. Told your children all the cheesecake had gone when in fact you had hidden it for later in the cupboard under the stairs?

3. Always held up 'Friar Tuck' and Mr. Kipling as role models?

Pride

'excessive belief in one's own abilities to the detriment of others'. (Think Mr. Darcy again).

Have you ever:

1. Lied to your friends about your recent performance in a pub quiz rather than admit you could not think of the capital of Belgium or spell chrysanthemum?

2. Told people you have been mistaken on the street for Craig Revel Horwood from Strictly or that woman who is Deputy Leader of the Labour Party?

3. Told people you have been to Oxford? (Oxford Street in fact).

And finally, **Envy** (not to be confused with jealousy which is more akin to lust if you see what I mean and see above).

Have you ever:

1. Coveted your neighbour's ox to the point that you stole it in the middle of the night, painted it black and white and passed it off as a zebra?

2. Gone green? (Not to be confused with recycling and turning off the lights which are virtues).

3. Wanted that pile in the country with its land and lakes and horses and multiple bathrooms? You did not think it fair that Mr. Darcy has it all and you don't have any of it so you committed several murders in order to get the land and the lakes and the horses and the bathrooms and are now serving a life sentence

*Please note this may also be seen as avarice so regrettably two sins here.

How did you score?

1-5 . Are you telling the truth? You must have done some of these things. Lying, whilst not a cardinal sin, is not very nice.

6-12. Not great is it?

13-19. If your friends knew about all this you would have no friends.

20-21 You must be an incredibly greedy, angry, lazy, fat, pompous git with the sexual proclivities of an alley cat who would like to possess an ox.