



Deadly Sin Seven: Pride

The seven deadly sins are just words. Pope Gregory coined the phrase but the Bible did not. He chose these seven sins but left out many others like adultery and drunkenness. Why these words are so deadly is because they are all the back bone of most sins. Adultery might come from lust or pride. Addiction could come through anger or gluttony. What drives sin? I am not so sure that the Pope put these in an order. Yet, if pride is really the last one, I believe it. It appears to drive them all.

“I want” just might be the first words of a child. I want milk. I need a toy. Through the years it increases to “I want her” and “I need food.” Pride could involve “they owe me” or “I must have it.” There is a popular understanding in psychology. They say to use “I” statements. Take ownership of your words and feelings. Saying “you” hurt me turns into “I” feel hurt. Pride likes “I” statements too. I need, I want, I deserve, and maybe I can or I will.

I find pride interesting. It’s good to believe in yourself. It’s good to want things. I feel that far too many people just settle for less than they are. Unfortunately, some people let high expectations turn into what we call pride. That can be deadly. I knew a woman who was unsatisfied in her marriage. She sacrificed her husband and children to have a different life.

Pride? I knew another lady who believed that she was more talented than most. In itself that is not so bad. Yet, she was driven to gain success at the cost of her husband and family. She has been through unwanted pregnancies, two divorces, and probably 15 careers. All in the name of want or pride?

We could say that I am reading pride wrong. Pride could be a happiness in one self. It could be taking care of our desires. A happy wife is a happy life. I take pride in writing. People take pride in a cool car they own. The deadly part is how far you will go to have it. If your spouse says “no” then what? Does pride take over. You must have it? Gluttony comes from wanting too much. Anger comes from not getting it our way. Sloth could be that we believe that things will happen in “our” time and not the worlds time. What is your pride?

I do struggle with this word. Pride is good and bad. That might be why it’s deadly. I knew a guy that told me he willfully does not sin anymore. How did he go from a humble servant of God to believing he could control sin? I contend that we cannot. Jesus was sinless and we are not him. Pride says I can overcome. I can achieve because I am that good. Yet, that man dropped me as a friend because he only wanted sinless people in his life. That my friend was a form of pride in a bad way.

Pride tends to distance us from others. We are set apart. Pride is deadly because it increases arrogance and loneliness. They say it’s lonely at the top for a reason. Who or what will you abandon to have everything you desire or to be the best? A gambler believes they can win. A drinker believes they can control drinking. Addiction comes from believing (pride) that you are that good. Yet, adultery means someone loses. Addiction means something overtakes you. Who does it abandon or hurt just to have it? Pride can be taken too far.

Read my other looks at the seven deadly sins. Pride is the driver. What will you do to have your desires? Who will you abandon just to own or have anything you want? What money, health, or time will you steal or squander just to be satisfied? People will go to great lengths to be the best. Why must you be the best? Is a God given talent driving you or pride? I know some people are good at things. Do they need to prove it? Just be the best you and encourage the best in others. The best things for humans to do is leave pride out of it. I do believe that it's deadly because it's far too dangerous. We do love pride in ourselves far too much.