



Deadly Sin Four: Sloth

A sloth is a four-armed animal that lives in tropical trees at night. They move very slow. Ok, that is not the sloth I want to talk about. The word sloth is not ever used these days except for the animal. In the dictionary Sloth could be described as laziness. I like the description “absence of inclination.” Sometimes we seem lazy. Is it more that we are lazy or that we are not moving? Depression and circumstances play a role. Who is slothful?

2 Thessalonians 3:10-11 *“For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.” 11We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.”*

This is a great set of verses. I do believe there are lazy people. However, sometimes we find it hard to move. In verse 11 it says they are busy and lazy at the same time. How is that possible? In a business or a church, we have some people that criticize and complain. All along these people are not doing anything but criticize and complain. They are too lazy to make things better. It’s like the arm chair quarterback.

I complain about politicians. Am I involved? No, I just vote and complain. I think what makes sloth a deadly sin is the absence of action. Usually, people who appear lazy have a tough time being motivated. Are they really lazy? People can be depressed or sick. I think the word sloth in the Bible refers to those who are unwilling. The Bible goes on to say that you won't eat if you won't get off your butt and do something about it.

Sloth is dangerous because it's a slippery slope. How did you get here? A thief steals because he is not making an honest effort. We are late on bills because we don't want to pay it back. It's all in the opposites. People want stuff. Yet, sloth is in how we get it. Is it by effort and hard work or feeling entitled? The Bible also alludes to being fat. Sometimes fat means you're not moving like you should. A slothful person might be eating and drinking but not balancing themselves by moving and working.

There is an argument these days between generations. I suppose it's always been this way. The last generation says they work harder than the last. Lately, governments all over the world have found it fashionable to borrow. Fashionable to give out free money to help the poor, economy, and infrastructure. This is all done in the name of getting things done. They look resourceful and caring. Yet, without work and effort, debt will come back to bite you.

A few countries are experiencing that. You cannot borrow and not pay it back. Sloth has many forms. In a way it's reversed. A hard worker might be patient. They might do things slowly. A slothful person might want it now. They borrow and cheat to get what they want without effort. I think that's why sloth is so dangerous. It appears to be working. It appears to care and try. Yet, in the long run, we have to pay for not doing it the hard way. The right way appears hard, but makes life easy.

How can we avoid this deadly sin? Do an honest job. Only complain if you have a good solution. Be critical of your own actions. Remember that borrowing means you owe someone. In return, they now own you. Sloth appears smart. It's not. Only hard honest work is smart. Sometimes getting ahead or gaining things takes time. In a world of access, we are able to get almost anything now. Possibly, it's lazy to do that if you can avoid patience and hard work. Sloth is a deadly sin because it damages character and progress while appearing to be a good thing.