

The Seven Sins
August 1, 2017

As many of you know, I am currently teaching as an online instructor for the College of Theology. One of the classes I teach uses the book *Glittering Vices: A New Look at the Seven Deadly Sins and Their Remedies*, by Rebecca Konyndyke DeYoung. In the book, the theology students examine the content, the meaning and the scriptural admonitions to deal with the seven deadly sins.

Many people probably are not familiar with the formal list of the seven deadly sins, so let me share them with you now (in no particular order):

- Envy
- Vainglory (Pride)
- Sloth
- Avarice (Greed)
- Wrath (Anger)
- Gluttony (Self-indulgence)
- Lust

In recently leading a class to examine the problems of these "deadly" sins, I was struck by how prevalent they are in our current culture and was personally aware of the temptation to each of these in my journey.

Yesterday, coming across my news feed was an opinion piece by Brian Klass posted yesterday on the website of USA Today. The article entitled [How Trump embodies every one of the Seven Deadly Sins](https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/07/31/how-trump-embodies-seven-deadly-sins-brian-klaas-column/523664001/) enticed me and I was struck by his assessment. You can find his article linked here:
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/07/31/how-trump-embodies-seven-deadly-sins-brian-klaas-column/523664001/>



While I know many who voted for Donald Trump for president, my objections to him are not based solely on policy. My concerns, as a pastor and as a follower of Jesus Christ is the presence of these seven deadly sins in the life of one of our leaders.

While I do not believe that any of us are exempt from sin, and none of us are perfect (least of all me), I am reminded of King David who is described in the scripture as a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). He was a man who genuinely honored God in his worship, praise and adoration of God. He planned for the sanctuary and the Temple for Israel. He was a person who was humble, surrendered, and genuine in his seeking after God.

But...David was also a flawed follower of God. He committed adultery, shirked his royal duties toward his armies and nation; he disobeyed God in counting his fighting men. He lied about his involvement with Bathsheba and in fact, practiced great hypocrisy (2 Samuel 12).

And both of these things can be true at the same time...and are for any genuine follower of Jesus Christ. We are flawed (and often have some glimmers of the seven deadly sins in our lives), but we are also seeking to be surrendered and forgiven by God through the incredible grace of Jesus Christ.

My concern with the President exhibiting the seven deadly sins is that there is no recognition, no admission, no confession and no acceptance that any of these behaviors are wrong. I remember that then candidate Trump was asked by a reporter if he had ever asked God for forgiveness. He responded, "Why? I don't think I've done anything that needs God's forgiveness."



Really...

May we all be more like King David, who after being confronted with his sin, confessed (Psalm 51) and repented and experienced the cleansing and forgiveness of God (Psalm 32).

May be more like King David...and less like President Trump!