

SEVEN DEADLY FOLLIES

THE FIGHT FOR HAPPINESS IN THE KILLING OF SIN

“Be always at it whilst you live;
cease not a day from this work;
be killing sin or it will be killing you.”

—John Owen,
The Mortification of Sin



“Be always at it whilst you live;
cease not a day from this work;
be killing sin or it will be killing you.”

—John Owen,
The Mortification of Sin

For if you live
according to
the flesh you
will die, but if
by the Spirit
you put to
death the deeds
of the body,
you will live.

— Romans 8:13



“Christianity is not merely or even mainly about correcting your bad habits, but about satisfying and fulfilling you in the deepest way possible, and therefore making God look as great as he is. Our hearts were designed to enjoy a full and forever happiness, not the pitiful temporary pleasures for which we’re too prone to settle. Pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony, and lust are all woefully inadequate substitutes for the wonder, beauty, and affection of God. As first hopes or dreams or loves, they are killjoys by comparison to Christ. They will rob you, not ravish you. They will numb you, not heal you. They will slaughter you, not save you.



The map inscribed on our sinful soul will not lead any of us to truth, glory, or happiness. It will lead us in circles of ‘almost’ and ‘good enough’ until it sits by our hospice bed, holding our confused, disappointed, and hopeless hand as we drift off into hell.

We have to wake up, scrap the old map, and grab the compass pointing true north, trusting that the God who formed our hearts knows how to fill them. We have to fight for joy in the right places.”

— Marshall Segal, *Killjoys*



PRIDE

– Proverbs 6:16-19 –



There are six things that the LORD hates,
seven that are an abomination to him;
haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,
a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,
a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers.

— Proverbs 6:16-19



Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.

— Proverbs 8:13



Haughty eyes and a proud heart,
the lamp of the wicked, are sin.

— Proverbs 21:4



Haughty eyes and a proud heart,
the lamp of the wicked, are sin.

— Proverbs 21:4

“Scoffer” is the name of the arrogant, haughty man
who acts with arrogant pride.

— Proverbs 21:24



When pride comes, then comes disgrace — Proverbs 11:2

Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall. — Proverbs 16:18

Before destruction a man's heart is haughty — Proverbs 18:12

He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck,
will suddenly be broken beyond healing. — Proverbs 29:1



Toward the scorers he is scornful — Proverbs 3:34

Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD;
be assured, he will not go unpunished. — Proverbs 16:5

The LORD tears down the house of the proud — Proverbs 15:25



“There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault which makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. The vice I am talking about is Pride or Self-Conceit: and the virtue opposite to it, in Christian morals, is called Humility.”

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,
but the LORD weighs the heart. — Proverbs 21:2

There are those who are clean in their own eyes
but are not washed of their filth.

There are those — how lofty are their eyes,
how high their eyelids lift! — Proverbs 30:12-13



“The ego often hurts. That is because it has something incredibly wrong with it. Something unbelievably wrong with it. It is always drawing attention to itself — it does so every single day. It is always making us think about how we look and how we are treated. Think about it. It is very hard to get through a whole day without feeling snubbed or ignored or feeling stupid or getting down on ourselves. That is because there’s something wrong with my ego. There is something wrong with my identity. There is something wrong with my sense of self. It is never happy. It is always drawing attention to itself.”

— Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*



“My drive in life comes from a fear of being mediocre. That is always pushing me. I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being but then I feel I am still mediocre and uninteresting unless I do something else. Because even though I have become somebody, I still have to prove that I am somebody. My struggle has never ended and I guess it never will.”

—Madonna



“In God you come up against something which is in every respect immeasurably superior to yourself. Unless you know God as that — and, therefore, know yourself as nothing in comparison — you do not know God at all. As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



The reward for humility and fear of the LORD
is riches and honor and life. — Proverbs 22:4

he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor — Proverbs 29:23

The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom,
and humility comes before honor. — Proverbs 15:33

with the humble is wisdom — Proverbs 11:2

humility comes before honor — Proverbs 18:12



Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

—Philippians 2:3-8



“Christianity is the only major religion
to have as its central event the *humiliation* of its God.”

— Bruce Shelley, *Church History in Plain Language*



“None has so little right to be proud as man,
and of all men none ought to be so humble as the Christian.”

—J.C. Ryle



I am weary, O God;

I am weary O God, and worn out.

Surely I am too stupid to be a man.

I have not the understanding of a man.

I have not learned wisdom,

nor have I knowledge of the Holy One.

Who has ascended to heaven and come down?

Who has gathered the wind in his fists?

Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

What is his name, and what is his son's name?

Surely you know!

— Proverbs 30:1-4



“feeling the infinite relief of having for once got
rid of all the silly nonsense about your own dignity which
has made you restless and unhappy all your life”

—C.S. Lewis



SEVEN DEADLY FOLLIES

THE FIGHT FOR HAPPINESS IN THE KILLING OF SIN