



Listen Christian!!!

By Conrad Barrett

Listen, Christian!

Seven DEADLY Sins

1. A "proud look"
2. A lying tongue
3. People who shed innocent blood
4. A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations
5. Mischief
6. False witness
7. Sowing discord among the brethren



Check this out!

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Christians should be different because of a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who identify themselves with Jesus Christ ought to embrace and follow good behavioral patterns which can easily be associated with the person and philosophy of Jesus. Actually, true Christians are followers of Christ and adhere to His teachings.

Becoming a Christian is great, but when one commits to Christ, a desire to be like Him will be noticeable. This commitment brings about personal peace and gratification as well as an inspiration to others. It is not engaging oneself in a system of drudgery which is tormenting to him or her and exasperating to others. Nor, is it a dimension which should make us feel like we are socially better than others because of our new found faith. True Christian faith connotes love for God and others.

Any degree of righteousness to which we may aspire is simply accorded to us by an act of God's grace and love. Our personal righteousness has been described by the prophet Isaiah as being like "filthy rags". (Isaiah 64:6) The righteousness of God is that which really matters because in truth, nothing else really does in our spiritual life.

Christian testimony is expressed in ways which many times transcend verbal claims. What Christians actually do may speak much louder than what is said. People listen, but observe more and what is seen may have a greater impact. The right behavior is very important because others are listening and watching.

In describing early Christians it is stated in the New Testament that people noticed their behavior and said they had become like Jesus because they had been with Him. (Acts 4:13) This is positive testimony that Christianity does make a difference. Christians, therefore, need to behave in such a way that it is readably noticeable that they have a definite association with Jesus. There are certain Godly qualities which help others know that Christians are different.

When relating to anyone both inside and outside the church, and in any church denomination, our demeanor should be one of integrity and kindness. Christians must be aware that they are not alone on the road to heaven. Whoever they are, and whatever their denominational persuasion, all Christians are on the same road. We should be aware of

who is around us as well as who is traveling with us as we journey toward heaven. “Listen, Christian!”

It is sad, but true, that many have left the church because of bad experiences as they have dealt with other Christians. This is especially true in business ventures and other matters of importance. Sometimes the church becomes a place of dissension more than a place of worship. This should never be.

Pulpits, too, may have over worked certain sins while never addressing others. All sins are bad, but some have a much longer reach than others. In an appropriate way all sins should be brought to our attention and none excluded. The right knowledge is a good thing.

Whenever the subject of sins arises, some may readily think of adultery, infidelity homosexuality, and fornication. These are sins that can bring about much heartache and sorrow, but they are just a few of many which people commit. There are more which may have a greater devastational effect on others as well as on ourselves.

It is interesting to observe that the Ten Commandments deal primarily with relationships. Four of the Commandments address human relationships with God and six relate to people associating with each other. One could conclude that the Commandments tell us it is easier to get along with the Lord than with each other. Are you listening, Christian?

It is interesting to note, too, that when Jesus spoke about the Ten Commandments, He spoke of one major point of emphasis. That point was about love for God first, and then love for our neighbor. Genuine agape love is a theme that runs through both Testaments. Remember, the love message is not optional for the Christian; it is a commandment.

Never should Christians trump one sin over another because of emotional convenience. Convenience can skew our thinking so it becomes easy to justify some sins while condemning others. The sin equation is not picking and choosing those we like while deploring others. King Solomon listed several sins which anyone would do well to read. He listed seven as being abominable. (Proverbs 6:16-19)

In categorizing the seven “abominable sins”, Solomon begins with those who have a “**proud look**”. A fair explanation of this sin suggests people who may think they are better than others and have a look that depicts it. The guilt implied here is that such behavior is sinful. Some people are better than others at many things, but combining our abilities with a “proud look” can be sinful.

A **lying tongue** is listed as the second of those named sins. Lying is a problem throughout our world and it even touches the church world. Lying simply means not telling the truth. The New Testament gives us information about the future of liars. It is not good for the liar. In fact the Bible tells us that all liars will have their part in the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 21:8) Whether in the courthouse or in the church house and all other places, we need to speak the truth. The truth will make us free according to the Bible. (John 8:32)

People who shed innocent blood are victims of a special sin. To put it succinctly, it means murder. Murder is expressly forbidden in the New Testament as well as the Old. The Ten Commandments forbid murder. Whether it is done physically or verbally, one should be very careful about how we treat others both in word and deed.

Only God knows the heart of human beings; but, the **heart that deviseth wicked imaginations** should be changed. The power of God unto salvation can change the heart regardless of how evil it may be.

Mischief is sin, and intensified when people are quick to propagate it. Solomon points out that feet which are quick to run to mischief are committing sin.

Becoming a **false witness** which speaks lies is a sin. We hear about it and read about it being done in our courts, political parties and throughout the world. The church has had much of it, too. Wherever it is done and by whomever, it is wrong and Solomon calls it sin. Gossip, backbiting, trouble making, deception and other such sins can be categorized as being a part of a false witness or a bad witness.

The last of the seven sins listed by Solomon in their context is about **sowing discord among the brethren**. Some people are not peace lovers. Instead, they are problem lovers and create more problems than they solve. Christians should know the difference and should be quick to be a promoter of peace rather than being a problem maker. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

The above listed seven sins which have been called the "seven deadly sins" are real, but damaging. They may be the greater of sins which blight the Christian and the church. Christians should be careful not to fall into the flow of sinful things. The worst sins could be the sins which some practice most.

Listen, Christian! God wants us to grow in His grace and knowledge and as we do, we must avoid certain temptations to do and say certain things, **so be careful, and listen!**

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