

Wisdom 101: Proverbs

Lesson #10 – 7 Deadly Sins, Part 2

The common list of “7 Deadly Sins” is as follows: Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Wrath, Envy, and Pride. While we know all those things are sinful, here is the list Proverbs gives us -

“There are six things which the Lord hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.” – Proverbs 6:16-19

Feet That Run Rapidly to Evil

1:15-19 – “My son, do not follow them in their way. Do not even set foot on their path, because they rush to do evil and hurry to shed blood. It does no good to spread a net within the sight of any bird. But these people set an ambush for their own murder. They go into hiding only to lose their lives. This is what happens to everyone who is greedy for unjust greed. Greed takes away his life.” (God’s Word)

4:26-27 – “Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.” (New American Standard)

8:13 – “All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption, and perverse speech.” (New Living Translation)

9:13-16 – “The woman named Folly is brash. She is ignorant and doesn’t know it. She sits in her doorway on the heights overlooking the city. She calls out to men going by who are minding their own business. ‘Come in with me,’ she urges the simple. To those who lack good judgment, she says, ‘Stolen water is refreshing; food eaten in secret tastes the best!’ But little do they know that the dead are there. Her guests are in the depths of the grave.”

(New Living Translation)

21:5, 17, 20 – “The plans of a hard-working person lead to prosperity, but everyone who is always in a hurry ends up in poverty...Whoever loves pleasure will become poor. Whoever loves wine and expensive food will not become rich...Costly treasure and wealth are in the home of a wise person, but a fool devours them.” (God’s Word)

23:19-22 – “Listen, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way. Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; for the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe one with rags. Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.”(New American Standard)

28:7, 22 – “The one who keeps the law is a discerning child, but a companion of gluttons brings shame to his parents...The stingy person hastens after riches and does not know that poverty will overtake him.” (New English Translation)

Consider the story of Jonah – how does he illustrate an example of someone who is running to mischief? Sometimes, sin can be a progression. Can you think of an example of how one sin can lead to another? Let’s think of some practices that can keep us on the right path.

False Testimony in the 21st Century – Kenneth Peasley

The Supreme Court ordered the disbarment after reviewing its Disciplinary Commission's recommendation in the case of Kenneth Peasley. The commission recommended the former assistant Pima County attorney be disbarred for intentionally eliciting false testimony in a capital murder case in 1993 and in a retrial in 1997.

The use of false testimony in the trial of two men accused in a 1992 triple-slaying at a market in Tucson "could not have been more harmful to the justice system," wrote Justice Michael D. Ryan for the unanimous court. "A prosecutor who deliberately presents false testimony, especially in a capital case, has caused incalculable injury to the integrity of the legal profession and the justice system."

Peasley was admitted to the state bar in 1974 and conducted about 250 felony cases, 140 of which were homicides, the court said. Sixty of the cases were capital murder trials. In a ruling overturning the conviction of one of the defendants in 2002, the Supreme Court said Peasley intentionally deceived the jury to paper over weaknesses in his case. (www.truthinjustice.org)

A False Witness Who Utters Lies

12:17 – "A truthful witness speaks honestly, but a lying witness speaks deceitfully."

(God's Word)

14:15, 25 – "Only simpletons believe everything they're told! The prudent carefully consider their steps...A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is a traitor."

(New Living Translation)

19:5, 9, 28 – "A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will not escape...A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who tells lies will perish...A rascally witness makes a mockery of justice, and the mouth of the wickedness spreads iniquity."

(New American Standard)

21:28 – "A false witness will be cut off, but a credible witness will be allowed to speak."

(New Living Translation)

24:28 – "Do not testify against your neighbor without a reason, and do not deceive with your lips." (God's Word)

Read Matthew 26:59-64, and notice the role false witnesses play in the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. His trial did not even abide by the Jewish standards of proper testimony. Last week, we also talked about slanderous lies that can be told about us. How does David deal with the lies of his enemies in Psalm 27:12-14?

One Who Spreads Strife Among Brothers

10:12 – "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions." (New American Standard)

15: 18 – "A quick-tempered person stirs up dissension, but one who is slow to anger calms a quarrel." (New English Translation)

16:27 – "A worthless person plots trouble, and his speech is like a burning fire." (God's Word)

22:10, 29 – "Throw out the mocker, and fighting goes, too. Quarrels and insults will disappear."

(New Living Translation)

27:4 – "Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood. But who can stand before jealousy?"

(New American Standard)

30:33 – "As churning milk produces butter and punching a nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces a fight." (God's Word)

3 John 1:9-11 tells us about Diotrefes, who was seeking preeminence. What role does the desire for preeminence play in stirring up strife? How can we safeguard against that happening?