

Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Cardinal Virtues

Peter Klein

Christ Our King Presbyterian Church, Columbia, MO

GREED (AVARICE)

Definitions

- Reprehensible acquisitiveness; insatiable desire for wealth (1 Tim. 6:1-11)
- Aspects or dimensions:
 - obsessive desire for material goods and the power that goes with them
 - fearful need to store up surplus goods for a vaguely defined time of want
 - desire for more earthly goods for their own sake
- Relationship to envy
- Not the same thing as the enjoyment of the good things (including man-made goods and services) God has provided!
- Not confined to the wealthy

Consequences

- Malicious actions: wars of conquest, theft, murder, deceit, betrayal (Judas)
- Idolatry (Matt. 6:24, Luke 12: 13-21)
- Note: money doesn't satisfy (Eccl. 5:10-20)

The prosperity gospel

- God loves a cheerful giver; does He also bless him financially?

Christianity and capitalism

- Is Christianity compatible with capitalism? Does it imply socialism (the early church, as described in Acts), the welfare state, etc.?

Overcoming greed

- Lesson #1: There are things better than money.
- Lesson #2: Money is not an end in itself, but a means to an end
 - Giving (1 Chron. 29:1-9)
 - Loving and serving God

“Man is created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save his soul. The other things on the face of the earth are created for man to help him in attaining the end for which he is created. Hence, man is to make use of them in as far as they help him in the attainment of his proper end.”

– St. Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises* (1535)

- Lesson #3: You can't take it with you (Matt. 6:19-21)