

# Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Cardinal Virtues

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## SLOTH

### Hebrews 6:9-12

<sup>9</sup>Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case--things that accompany salvation. <sup>10</sup>God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup>We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. <sup>12</sup>**We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.**

#### What is sloth?

- Aversion to physical exertion
- Aversion to religious exercise

#### Physical Exertion

- Proverbs, Proverbs, Proverbs
- Prov. 12:24, 27; 15:19; 18:9; 22:13; 26:13-15

#### Religious Exercise

- When obedience becomes rote
- When the desire for inactivity overcomes the desire to serve
- Loss of focus on God's command to worship Him

#### What causes this?

#### Cultural Perspectives

- Religious fanaticism
  - "puritanistic"
    - "Christians are not sinless, but they should sin less."
    - The churches must learn humility as well as teach it."
  - "fundamentalist"
    - "Spiritual people inspire me; Religious people frighten me."
  - detailed searches for inconsistencies
    - "Believing is easier than thinking. Hence, so many more believers than thinkers." –Bruce Calvert
  - Society does not have much trouble with marginal Christianity

Is cultural tolerance offered only to religiously slothful Christians?

## Biblical Perspective

- Single devotion
  - *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”* Ecclesiastes 12:13
  - *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”* Matthew 6:33
- Single purpose
  - *“Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever.”*  
Q1, Shorter Catechism

## The Problem with Sloth

- It is the loss of the understanding of the worship of God
- Leads to bitterness and contempt

## The Healthy Christian’s Life

- gratitude
- praise
- service
- joy
- satisfaction
- confession
- fellowship

Where does sloth creep into our daily worship?  
What does a religiously slothful Christian look like?