

Seven Social Sins

Seven Social Sins

- On October 22, 1925, Mahatma Gandhi listed “Seven Deadly Social Sins” that he considered the most spiritually damaging to humanity. They eventually came to be known as the “Seven Blunders of the World.”
- His list is relevant for all times, but it is not original with him.
- It is at the core of many of the sorrows and sins of our time.

Seven Social Sins

- Politics without principles,
- Commerce without morality,
- Science without humanity,
- Knowledge without character,
- Wealth without work,
- Pleasure without conscience,
- Worship without sacrifice.

Seven Social Sins

- Politics without principles allows us to exchange avowed objectives and abandon people, morals, and traditions when expedient. Acquiring and holding power is the only consideration.
- Commerce without morality makes it acceptable to cheat, lie, steal, and sell harmful or inferior products. Profit is the only consideration.
- Science without humanity does not consider the impact of advancement on people or culture or faith. Scientific advancement is the only consideration.

Seven Social Sins

- Knowledge without character is the use of knowledge for harm, power, control, and manipulation. Character gives one the strength to do what is right, to hold ourselves and others accountable. Knowledge is the only consideration.
- Wealth without work is the sense of entitlement that one has a right to abundance without the effort and sacrifice necessary to obtain it. Obtaining and spending the perceived entitlement is the only consideration.

Seven Social Sins

- Pleasure without conscience is the pursuit of sensuality and gratification without responsibility to God, others, or one's self. Pleasure is the only consideration.
- Worship without sacrifice is the conviction that one can maintain a relationship with God receiving blessings from Him without responsibility from the worshiper to give to God or man, or to improve himself. Feeling transitorily spiritual is the only consideration.

Politics Without Principles

- 1Sam. 8:10-18 - The king would care about maintaining his rule, but would care little for his subjects.
- Matt. 23:2-7 - The Pharisees were masters of politics without principles.
- Amos 6:1-7
- “When the kings and leaders of Israel failed to support the poor and vulnerable, they dishonored themselves and shamed Jehovah. Social justice was a matter of Divine honor. Social injustice was blasphemy.” (*Richard Lowery, Sabbath and Jubilee*)

Commerce Without Morality

- Deut. 25:13-16
- Adam Smith, an 18th century Scottish philosopher and political economist, emphasized that business systems must have a moral foundation. “Every business transaction is a moral challenge to see that both parties come out fairly. Fairness and benevolence in business are the underpinnings of free enterprise.”

Commerce Without Morality

- Luke 3:12-13 - “Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, Teacher, what shall we do? 13 And he said to them, Collect no more than what is appointed for you.”
- Luke 16:10 - “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”

Science Without Humanity

- “The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” (*Isaac Asimov*)
- If science is left on its own without thinking about the consequences to humanity or civilization, we will end up with technology that destroys the humanity it should have protected. In the absence of concern for God and man, science will consume the souls of those who embrace it.
- Rom. 1:18-23

Knowledge Without Character

- Psalm 14:1-4 - “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. 2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the LORD?”
- 1Cor. 1:18-25

Knowledge Without Character

- To me, learning is a life-long pursuit. It is food for my mind. I feel pity for the person who distains education. But unregulated by a strong moral character, it is a destructive force.
- “To an ignorant person, wisdom is as useless as a house fallen in. He has never even thought about the things he is so sure of. To a person without any sense, an education is like handcuffs, but to a sensible person, it is like gold bracelets.” (*Sirach*)

Knowledge Without Character

- We may have the entire Gospel memorized, but if we do not love the souls we teach, we are nothing.
- 1Cor. 13:2 - “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

Wealth Without Work

- Prov. 10:2-5 - “Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death. 3 The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked. 4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich. 5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.”
- James 5:1-7

Wealth Without Work

- Jesus was tempted by Satan to feed Himself miraculously following a forty day fast. He did not use the easy way to get food.
- Matt. 4:1-11

Pleasure Without Conscience

- Psalm 32:7-10 - “You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. 10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.”

Pleasure Without Conscience

- Luke 15:17-19 - “But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’”

Worship Without Sacrifice

- Ez. 33:30-32 - “As for you, son of man, the children of your people are talking about you beside the walls and in the doors of the houses; and they speak to one another, everyone saying to his brother, ‘Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.’ 31 So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. 32 Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument; for they hear your words, but they do not do them.”
- Matt. 15:1-9

Worship Without Sacrifice

- Without sacrifice, Christians become active in the church without becoming active in the Gospel.
- Many want the feelings of spirituality and fellowship, but would never miss a meal or rise out of their recliners to get them.
- They want membership in a local church and to be viewed as godly, but will not be inconvenienced to get them.

Worship Without Sacrifice

- The most frequently asked questions I receive today have something to do with what is the least one has to do to be a Christian.
- Why do we want to belong to a faith that was begun by Someone Who gave the ultimate sacrifice?
- What makes us think He will allow you to remain in His church if we are unwilling to make the sacrifices He asks of us?
- We need to keep our excuses to ourselves and start being the living sacrifice we promised we would be when we obeyed the Gospel.

Worship Without Sacrifice

- I'm not talking about the people outside of Christ; I'm talking to the Christians inside this room, and to those who can assemble, but are sitting at home livestreaming instead of coming to worship.

Worship Without Sacrifice

- If I have any criticism to offer to help us, it is this: we love to study and talk about the worldly and the wicked. While this needs to be done, it often comes with two dangers: first, it keeps our attention off of ourselves. The Adversary is content with that. And second, if we do look at ourselves, we compare ourselves to those outside and think that because we are doing better, we are just fine. The Adversary is happy with that, too, because it's just a matter of time before we fall.