

Seven Social Sins

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. 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.”
 1. His list is relevant for all times, but it is not original with him.
 2. It is at the core of many of the sorrows and sins of all times.
 3. They are as follows:
 - a. Politics without principles,
 - b. Commerce without morality,
 - c. Science without humanity,
 - d. Knowledge without character,
 - e. Wealth without work,
 - f. Pleasure without conscience,
 - g. Worship without sacrifice.
- B. If understood and applied, they could shape a just and moral society.
 1. 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.
 2. Commerce without morality makes it acceptable to cheat, lie, steal, and sell harmful or inferior products. Profit is the only consideration.
 3. Science without humanity does not consider the impact of advancement on people or culture or faith. Scientific advancement is the only consideration.
 4. 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.
 5. 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 enjoying the perceived entitlement is the only consideration.
 6. Pleasure without conscience is the pursuit of sensuality and gratification without responsibility to God, others, or one’s self. Pleasure is the only consideration.
 7. 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.
- C. What has the word of God to say?

I. POLITICS WITHOUT PRINCIPLES

- A. 1Sam. 8:10-18 - The king would bring with him politics without principle. He would care about maintaining his rule but would care little for his subjects.
- B. Matt. 23:2-7 - The Pharisees were masters of politics without principles.

- C. Amos 6:1-7 - Richard Lowery on Sabbath and Jubilee, "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."

II. COMMERCE WITHOUT MORALITY

A. Deut. 25:13-16

1. 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."

B. Luke 3:12-13, 16:10

III. SCIENCE WITHOUT HUMANITY

A. Rom. 1:18-23

1. "The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." (Isaac Asimov)

- B. 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.

IV. KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT CHARACTER

A. Psalm 14:1-4; 1Cor. 1:18-25

- B. To me, learning is a life-long pursuit. It is food for my mind,

1. I feel pity for the person who distains education,
2. But unregulated by a strong moral character, it is a destructive force

- C. Sirach wrote: "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."

1. 1Cor. 13:2 - We may have the entire Gospel memorized, but if we do not love the souls we teach, we are nothing.
2. As dangerous as a little knowledge is, even more dangerous is much knowledge without strong, principled character. Purely intellectual development without internal character development makes as much sense as putting a powerful sports car in the hands of a teen on drugs.

V. WEALTH WITHOUT WORK

A. Prov. 10:2-5; James 5:1-7

1. Everyone complains about the rich get richer and the poor get poorer and the middle class suffers under an immense burden. But we all hope to find an easy way to get rich. We all want instant wealth without work. Lotteries and sweepstakes make fortunes on the backs of billions who want wealth conferred by the odds rather than by work.

- B. Matt. 4:1-11 - Jesus was tempted by Satan to feed Himself miraculously following a forty day fast. Jesus did not use the easy way to get food.
1. It is also frustrating that there are those who take our good intentions and become parasites on the system. They not only take from those of us who support the system, in doing so they take from the people who honestly need the help.
 2. Some engage in minor theft. The average laborer in the US makes \$17.00 per hour. The CEO of a Fortune 500 company makes an average of \$8,000.00 hourly; 470 times more. "Who will notice? Who will care? The company can afford it." Do you think they will reduce that CEO's salary to cover increasing costs? They charge consumers more.

VI. PLEASURE WITHOUT CONSCIENCE

A. Psalm 32:7-10; Luke 15:17-19

1. As a culture, we've become obsessed with physical appearance and physical pleasure. Recreational sex is America's pastime. And no one considers the harm they do to themselves and others.
2. Most people just want to hear about Jesus and how He will save us from our sins. But first we need to repent of and confess our sins.

VII. WORSHIP WITHOUT SACRIFICE

A. Ez. 33:30-32; Matt. 15:1-9

1. Without sacrifice, Christians become active in the church without becoming active in the Gospel.
2. Many want the feeling of spirituality and fellowship, but would never miss a meal or rise out of their recliners to get it.
3. They want membership in a local church and the appearance of godliness, but will not be inconvenienced to maintain it.
4. The most frequently asked questions I receive have something to do with what is the least one has to do to be a Christian, from prospects, new converts, long time members, people in crisis, people beginning to drift. I'm not talking about people in the world; I talking about professed Christians.

B. Why do we want to belong to a faith that was begun by Someone Who gave the ultimate sacrifice?

1. What makes us think He will allow us to remain in His church if we are unwilling to sacrifice what He demands of us and not the bare minimum leftovers so many give Him?
2. Keep our excuses to ourselves and start being the living sacrifice we promised we would be when we obeyed the Gospel.
3. 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.