

## **Seven Deadly Christian Work Sins – Part 2**

*Howard Hendricks*

### I. Seven deadly work sins *or* “*If I were the devil.*”

A. The devil is out to get you; he is committed to this.

B. He is a greater student of you than you are of him.

C. Some possible ways the devil can get to you:

1. More heresy is taught per square inch through application than anything.

2. Morality—the very point that you think you are strongest, you are most vulnerable.

3. Maybe you threw in the towel of your ministry.

D. Some more subtle ways the devil gets you as a worker:

1. Self-depreciation.

a. Being in ministry may complicate your problem because ministry attracts that kind of individual.

b. It is always an unrealistic self appraisal.

1) Two extremes: (Romans 12:3)

a) The person who has too high a view of himself.

b) The person who has too low a view of himself.

2) To say that you are not good at something when you are good is not humility; it is pride because it is a distortion.

3) To know what your assets are is an advantage—your assets develop your confidence, your weaknesses develop your faith.

c. The Lord commanded us to love others as we love ourselves; we must love ourselves to love others so that grace can flow freely.

d. Satan does not need our help dumping on us.

e. You are a significant person—Jesus died for you and would have if you were the only person.

f. God takes zeros and makes them into something.

g. We need to rebuke those who are dumping on themselves.

## 2. Hyper-sensitivity.

- a. You can tell the quality of an individual by what it takes to stop him.
- b. The process of our faith is to change us from people with thick hearts and thin skin, to people with thick skin and thin hearts.
- c. It is a mark of maturity to handle criticism well.
- d. Two questions to ask concerning criticism:
  - 1) Is it valid? Then it is profitable—let it be profitable and thank the person.
  - 2) Is it false? Then don't stoop to be bothered by it.
    - a) If it is false and you capitulate then you stoop to the level of the ministry.
- e. Significant people for Jesus Christ are going to be targets of criticism.
- f. It matters how we handle suffering. (1 Peter 2:20)
- g. The greatest form of pressure is peer pressure.
  - 1) Students make more impact on each other than teachers.
  - 2) We need to be convinced that it is okay to be different from the community.

## 3. Resentment of authority.

- a. We have been teaching submission as if it were the exclusive responsibility of the wife; submission, however, is the lifestyle of the Christian.
  - 1) Personal example of speaker's father who used military authority.
  - 2) You will never become a good leader until you become a good follower.
- b. If you have problems with a group or a person, you will have problems with whatever people you are involved with because you are not submitted to your Lord.
- c. The greatest spiritual impact comes from those on the work crew.

## 4. Lack of self-discipline.

- a. At the end of the fruit of the Spirit is self control; the Holy Spirit must be relied on for this.

b. Self-discipline is that quality in an individual that is willing to forgo immediate desires for ultimate purposes.

c. Time is the one thing that we all have in common; we have all the time in the world to do the Father's will—therefore, we should never say we have no time.

d. Four ingredients for getting on top of the discipline drag.

1) You have to determine your objectives—what do you want?

2) What are your priorities—what price are you willing to pay to accomplish your objective?

a) There are a lot of things that are good that do not help us accomplish our objectives.

3) A schedule—how can you implement your priorities and pull off your objectives.

4) Discipline with a supernatural invasion (your dynamic). This is a question of being disciplined in the realm of the spiritual—it is not just natural.

5. Inability to relate to people.

6. Unwillingness to rest and relax.

7. Lack of courage.

**Application Questions:**

1. Often people belittle themselves under the guise of humility. What does the speaker say about self-deprecation and how is it related to spiritual maturity?

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2. What was the method the speaker suggested for dealing with criticism? Why is this so important concerning the sin of hypersensitivity?

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3. What are some of your thoughts on the four ingredients the speaker presents on becoming self-disciplined? In light of his method, what does your current schedule say about your objectives? How can you fine tune it to better meet those objectives?

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