



MPC BIBLE TEACHING WEEKEND

A History of the Seven Deadly Sins

As we prepare for our Bible Teaching Weekend, it's probably good to clarify that there's no actual list of 'The Seven Deadly Sins' anywhere in the Bible. The list of seven sins was simply a catchy teaching technique first used by St Gregory the Great in the second half of the 6th century. Gregory ranked the sins in order of their offence against love. Listed from most serious to least they were: pride, envy, anger, sadness, avarice, gluttony, and lust. He started a huge debate. Soon, for instance, the church replaced the sin of "sadness" with "sloth", which was defined as putting off or failing to do what God asks of you. Throughout the Middle Ages many important theological and confessional works were structured around the seven deadly sins. Together with the 10 Commandments, it was one of the most popular models for discussions of ethics and personal piety.

These days, the Seven Deadly Sins have fallen out of fashion – although they did get a brief run as the names of a range of Streets "Heaven on a Stick" ice creams! Perhaps that says it all – these days, sin is no big deal. We can do what we like, and laugh at the idea of the deadliness of sin. And while no list of these seven deadly sins appears as such in the Bible itself, as we'll discover, each of them is condemned at various points. (Interestingly, a list of seven sins that God hates is found in Proverbs 6:16-19: "There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.")

There's no room for complacency about sin of any description – as all particular sins, no matter how you list them, are indicators of the bigger problem of the rejection of God. Better still, as Christians, we can make progress in growing to be more like Jesus, as we explore with Steve Cree what it means to be "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."

Discussion

"God forgives me for all sins I do, so I don't need to bother turning away from sin". Discuss.

The Big Picture – Understanding Sin

1. Creation: Revelation 4:11 Why should we honour and praise God?

2. Sin: Romans 1:18-32 What is the nature of sin?

Romans 3:10-12 How many people have turned away from God's rule?

3. Judgement: Romans 6:23 What is God's punishment for sin?

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Hebrews 9:27 What does the future hold for sinners?

4. Jesus' Death:

1 Peter 3:18 Why did Christ die?

1 John 1:8-9 What does Christ's death do for our sin?

5. Jesus' Resurrection: Phil 2:9-11 What place has God given to Jesus?

What should our attitude be to Jesus?

6. Living God's Way:

Jesus died to bring us forgiveness for our sins. Our response should be to accept this wonderful gift of forgiveness. But the response shouldn't stop there. God's forgiveness is such an amazing gift that accepting it changes everything. God's love in forgiving us should change our lives completely as we seek to thank him for our salvation. We should seek to live new lives that show our thanks - with Jesus as the boss of everything we do. After all, Jesus isn't just our Saviour, he is our Risen Lord.

Read & discuss the following passages. In what way do they suggest that belonging to Christ means going through a death and resurrection like he did?

Colossians 3:1-14

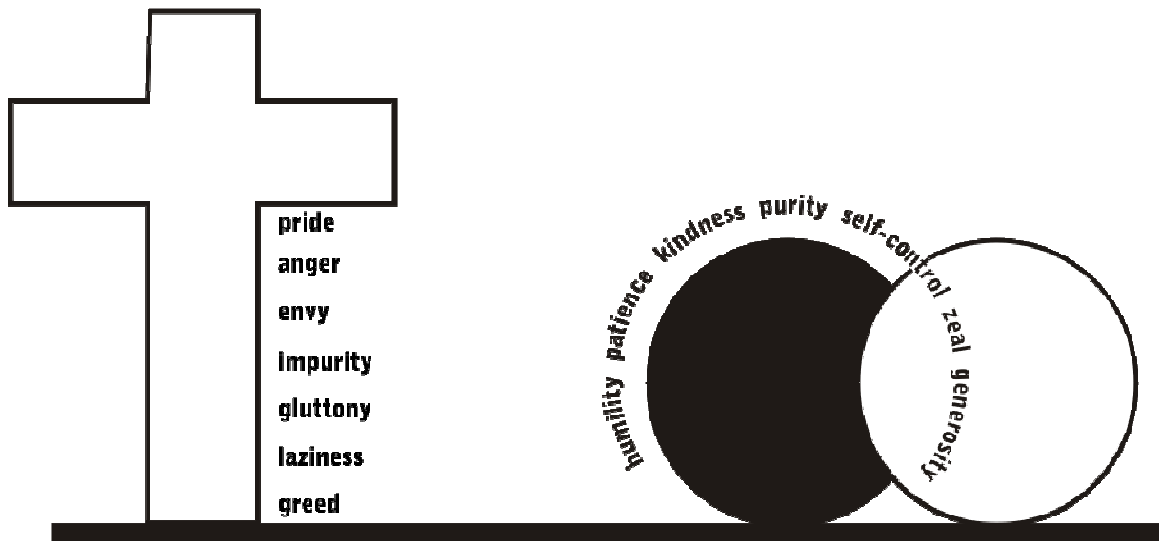
Romans 6:1-14

Galatians 5:13-26

7. As we seek to live God's way, we do not do it alone, but TOGETHER AS A CHURCH. Spend a few minutes looking over Ephesians 4-6, noting all that it says about the part we play in each others lives in turning from sin and living for Christ.

Think and Apply...

8. Look at the list of seven sins (pictured below). How well does this list sum up all sin (and the ones mentioned in the readings)? Are there others that should be mentioned?



dying and rising with Christ

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9. Which of these sins do you expect to be most challenged to turn away from?

10. Look at the list of seven virtues (pictured on the empty tomb on the previous page). How well does this list sum up the Christ-like, loving character the Spirit is working to produce in us?

11. Which of these virtues do you expect these talks to most challenge you to pursue?

12. What will it mean for us to learn from these talks together as a church?

Join us for the Bible Teaching Weekend:

Our annual Bible Teaching Weekends are always a highlight of the mpc calendar. They're a great way to spend time catching up over a meal together, and to stretch in our understanding of the Bible.

The program for the weekend is:

Saturday 21 Oct:

Session 1 530-615

BBQ Dinner 615 – PLEASE RSVP. Call Colin Bain on 3356 1066 if you didn't sign up already.

Session 2 730-815

Supper 815 – please bring to share

Session 3 845-930pm

Sunday 22 Oct:

Session 4 9am service

Session 5 1030am service – different talk to 9am

Session 6 715pm