

VICE
HABITS OF SIN

INTRO / PRIDE
 WEEK 1 JANUARY 14, 2018

REMEMBER...

God is not about making bad people good...
but making dead people alive.
 Ravi Zacharias (paraphrased)

OPENING REMARKS

- Addressing sin is complicated.
- Addressing sin is painful.
- Addressing sin is personal.
- Addressing sin is critical.
- Questions are welcomed. Please hold comments to the end (time permitting).
- Anonymous questions welcomed.

CLASS GOALS

- Followers of Jesus will better understand and recognize the habits of sin in our lives (Eph 5:13).
- The Spirit will bring conviction (godly grief) leading to repentance and salvation, but NOT shame (worldly grief) which leads to death (1 Cor 7:8-10).
- Followers of Jesus will find themselves better enabled to battle vice, the schemes of the devil (Eph 6:10-18).
- Followers of Jesus, walking with the Spirit, finding freedom from vice, with gentleness, will increasingly bear one another's burdens (Gal 5:13-6:2).
- The gospel of Jesus will be thus proclaimed and taught with openness unhindered (Acts 28:31).

WHY A CLASS ON VICE?

- We are on the path of following Jesus. Sin leads us astray. Our vices are well-worn side-trails that detour us again and again.
- We are too frequently comfortable in our vices.
- Our vices compromise our mission.
- We are instructed to put to death our sin. (Col 3:5-6)
 - **"Be killing sin or it will be killing you."**
 - John Owen
 - Of The Mortification of Sin in Believers, 1656*

DEFINITIONS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miss the mark, fail to image God, unbelief • VICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruptive, dehumanizing habits of sin • IDOLATRY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to, exaltation of anything other than Triune God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLOURISH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faithfully bear the image of God • VIRTUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habits of moral excellency, flourishing • WORSHIP (TRUE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission to, exaltation of Triune God
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WHAT IS PRIDE?

- To be for [self]
- Self-orientation, self-esteem

PRIDE & THE VICES

- **Evagrius of Pontus** (346-399): desert father; "eight wicked thoughts"
- **Gregory the Great** (540-604): Pride is the root of the vices; vices to seven.
- **Thomas Aquinas** (1225-1274): list as presented in this class.



TREE OF VICE

- **Pride** = root / trunk
- **Vices** = branches
 - 1) **Envy**
 - 2) **Vainglory**
 - 3) **Sloth (Acedia)**
 - 4) **Greed (Avarice)**
 - 5) **Anger (Wrath)**
 - 6) **Gluttony**
 - 7) **Lust (Erotic desire)**
- **Sins** = leaves

WHAT IS PRIDE?

- To be for [self]
- Self-orientation, self-esteem, self-dependence
- Worship the idol of self (ego-idolatry)
- "casting off the fatherhood of God" (Russell Moore)
- Antithesis of meekness, humility

**Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

Proverbs 16:18

HOW SERIOUS IS PRIDE?

- "...the essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride."
 - "Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind."
 - "...pride always means enmity—it *is* enmity. And not only enmity between man and man, but enmity to God."
 - "...pride is spiritual cancer: it eats up the very possibility of love, or contentment, or even common sense."
- C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (Ch. 8, "The Great Sin")

PRIDE: PAUL'S REMEDY

So **let no one boast in men**. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and **you are Christ's**, and Christ is God's. **This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards** of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is **required of stewards that they be found faithful**. But with me **it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court**. In fact, **I do not even judge myself**. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. **It is the Lord who judges me**.

PRIDE FADES

Self adoration

Self forgetfulness

Self reprobation

PRIDE: PAUL'S REMEDY

Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that **none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another**. For who sees anything different in you? **What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?** (1 Cor 3:21 – 4:7)

PRIDE FADES

God adoration

+

Sin reprobation

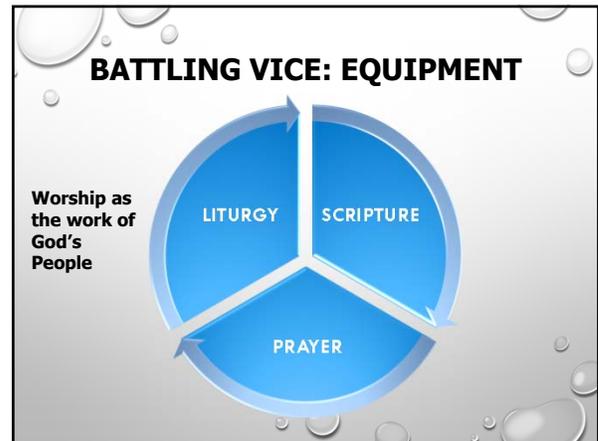
PRIDE FADES

Self adoration

Self forgetfulness

Self reprobation





BATTLING VICE: OPERATIONAL PLANNING

1. "But now that you have been **set free from sin** and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" (Rom 6:22-23)
2. "...**work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling, for it is **God who works in you...**" (Phil 2:12-13 partial)



BATTLING VICE: OPERATIONAL PLANNING

3. "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **stand against the schemes of the devil.** For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, **against the spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly places." (Eph 6:10-12)

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

To what end?

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:12-14

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

Repentance.

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead**, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:12-14



BATTLING VICE: A FAITHFUL DOG

A faithful dog knows his Master has many dogs, each serving a different purpose, and that his Master will provide him uniquely what is required for his tasks.

BATTLING ENVY

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

Keep fighting.

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already perfect, but I **press on** to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward** to what lies ahead, I **press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Phil 3:12-14



BATTLING VICE: A FAITHFUL DOG

A faithful dog cares not what others think of her if her Master is pleased.

BATTLING VAINGLORY

BATTLING VICE: OBJECTIVES

New Creation.

"Not that I have already obtained [resurrection] or am already **perfect**, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: **forgetting what lies behind and straining forward** to what lies ahead, I press on toward **the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**"

Phil 3:12-14



BATTLING VICE: A FAITHFUL DOG

A faithful dog knows he has a job to do and does it. A faithful dog enjoys the rest his Master provides.

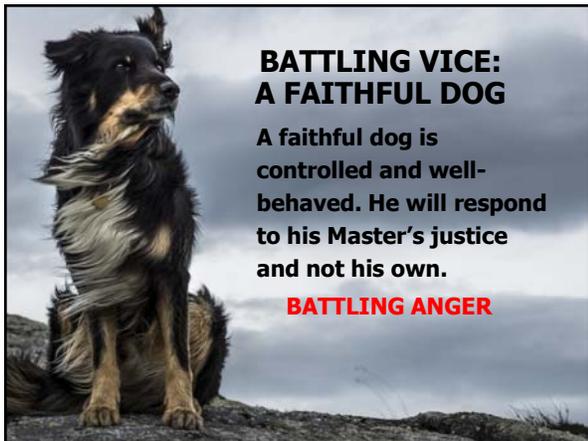
BATTLING SLOTH



**BATTLING VICE:
A FAITHFUL DOG**
A faithful dog trusts her Master will provide for her material needs and is generous to provide for others.
BATTLING GREED



**BATTLING VICE:
A FAITHFUL DOG**
A faithful dog trusts his Master will provide for appropriate intimacy, pleasure and offspring to suit the Master's purposes for his dog.
BATTLING LUST



**BATTLING VICE:
A FAITHFUL DOG**
A faithful dog is controlled and well-behaved. He will respond to his Master's justice and not his own.
BATTLING ANGER



**BATTLING VICE:
A FAITHFUL DOG**
A faithful dog serves her Master and not herself. A faithful dog takes ultimate satisfaction in this alone.
BATTLING PRIDE



**BATTLING VICE:
A FAITHFUL DOG**
A faithful dog trusts her Master will feed her and she will feed only from her Master's hand.
BATTLING GLUTTONY



THE GLORY OF BATTLING VICE

“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence **draw near to the throne of grace, that we may **receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**”**

Hebrews 4:14-16

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

- Butterfield RC, *Openness Unhindered*, 2015.
- DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*, 2009.
- Keller T, *The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness*, 2012.
- Lewis CS, *Mere Christianity*, especially Chapter 8.
- Lewis CS, *The Screwtape Letters*.
- Moore R, *Tempted and Tried*, 2011.
- Piper J, *Battling Unbelief*, 2007.

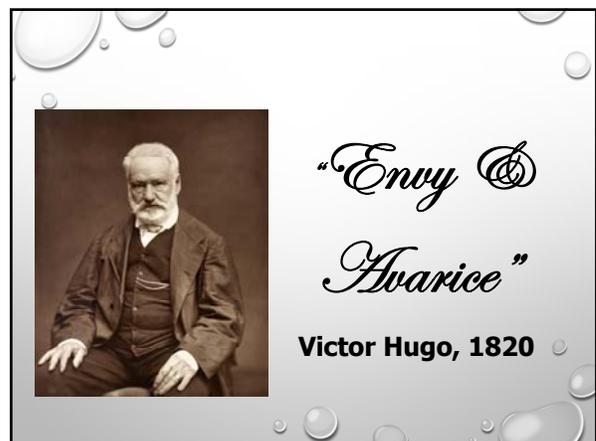
- GRACE TO HELP IN A TIME OF NEED**
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|---------------|-------------------|
| Rich Lanning | Colleen Grogan |
| Michael Lyons | Sharon Schatz |
| Rick Schatz | Erin Lyons |
| Mark Verhagen | Stephanie Langdon |
| Steve Langdon | |

VICE
HABITS OF SIN

ENVY
 WEEK 2 JANUARY 21, 2018

“We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when **infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.”**

C. S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*



OPENING REMARKS

- Addressing sin is complicated.
- Addressing sin is painful.
- Addressing sin is personal.
- Addressing sin is critical.
- Questions (and answers) are welcomed. Please hold comments to the end (time permitting).

God is not about making bad people good...

....but making dead people alive.

Ravi Zacharias (paraphrased)

FOR EXAMPLE, A HOUSE

- **Greed:** I want a bigger/better house (than I need).
- **Covet:** I want my neighbor's house.
- **Envy:** I want my neighbor's house so I will have the honor of having the best house on the street and my neighbor won't.
- **Jealousy:** If my neighbor gets a bigger house, I will lose the honor of having the best house on the street.

CLASS GOALS

- Followers of Jesus will better **understand and recognize the habits of sin in our lives** (Eph 5:13).
- The **Spirit will bring conviction** (godly grief) leading to repentance and salvation, but NOT shame (worldly grief) which leads to death (1 Cor 7:8-10).
- Followers of Jesus will find themselves **better enabled to battle vice**, the schemes of the devil (Eph 6:10-18).
- Followers of Jesus, walking with the Spirit, **finding freedom from vice**, with gentleness, will **increasingly bear one another's burdens** (Gal 5:13-6:2).
- The **gospel of Jesus** will be thus proclaimed and taught with **openness unhindered** (Acts 28:31).

ENVY FURTHER DEFINED

- **"Envy is a mingling of a desire for something with the resentment that it's going well for the other person and not for you."**

John Piper, "Battling the Unbelief of Envy"

- **"Envy is a dissatisfaction with our place in God's order of creation, manifested in begrudging his gifts to others."**

St. Augustine's Prayerbook

- **"Envy is the consuming desire to have everybody else as unsuccessful as you are."**

Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

WHAT IS ENVY?

- **Greed:** to want more of something
- **Covet:** to want something another has
- **Envy:** to covet something (generally a quality, worth, standing, status or honor) at the cost of another having it
- **Jealousy:** feeling threatened that something you love or possess may be taken away

DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*

ENVY REVEALED

- We tend only to envy those whom we wish to rival or surpass in reputation. (Aquinas)
- Envy is passive-aggressive. Passive because to envy openly would be to admit inferiority. Aggressive because envy seeks to prove superiority.
- The envious judge they are worth less because someone else is better.
- To love is to seek other's good and rejoice when they have it. To envy is to seek to destroy the other's good and sorrow over their having it.

DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*.

ENVY REVEALED

- "To 'win' at envy is to destroy the possibility of love between oneself and others, and oneself and God. To be envious is to be determined to live in a way that precludes gratitude and contentment, love and happiness."

DeYoung RK, Glittering Vices.

ENVY LEADS ASTRAY

How might envy be leading the Christ followers at ECC astray?

How might envy be compromising the mission of God at ECC?

ENVY REVEALED IN US

Where might the followers of Jesus at ECC be envious?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status / Respect? Job / Work / School / Family / Marriage success? Prosperity: Health & Wealth? Appearance? Children? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciated / Liked? Spiritual maturity? Spiritual gifts / talents? Church affinity? Church "success"? Loved?
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BATTLING ENVY

- **OPERATIONAL PLANNING**
 - Gift: set free from sin (Rom 6:22-23)
 - Work out our salvation because God works in us (Phil 2:12-13)
 - Wrestle against spiritual forces of evil (Eph 6:10-12)
- **EQUIPMENT & TACTICS**
 - Scripture / Prayer / Liturgy
 - Flee, talk back, remember, confess, Lord's Supper, work, community, Sabbath rest
- **OBJECTIVES** (Phil 3:12-14)
 - Repentance, Perpetual struggle (never give up), New Creation

ENVY'S ROTTEN FRUIT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative measurement of self-worth • Sadness that another's good excels ours • Selfishness & unnecessary competition • Reading false-motives in the behavior of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pleasure in the failures or misfortunes of others • Belittling others • Ill-will & resentment • Lying, false accusations, slander • Hatred • Murder <p style="text-align: right;"><i>RK DeYoung, ibid</i></p>
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BATTLING ENVY

FLEEING ENVY: How?

- Where it is possible, flee the people, places, situations or things that prompt you to envy.

BATTLING ENVY

TALKING BACK: What to say to yourself?

- "So **put away all malice** and all deceit and hypocrisy and **envy** and all slander...**long for spiritual milk** that by it you may **grow up to salvation...**" (1 Pet 2:1-2)

BATTLING ENVY

REMEMBER

In Christ Jesus, **status does not count for anything**, but **only faith working through love...** For you are called to freedom. Use your freedom through love to **serve one another...** I warn you as I warned you before, **those who envy will not inherit my Kingdom.** (Galatians 5:6,13,21 adapted)

BATTLING ENVY

REMEMBER: What?

- The foundation of **your worth** is **not** based upon you **excelling** anyone at anything.
- You will **always lose** if your worth is based upon you **being better** than someone.
- Your worth is akin to an **infant beloved by a good mother**: it is entirely, unconditionally received.

BATTLING ENVY

CONFESS* Pray with me.

Heavenly Father, we are a broken people. We are sinful and unwilling to think and act the way you want us to. We are jealous and envious of others. We want things that others have, regardless of our need.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

We downplay the gifts of others, and we sometime think that they do not deserve the good things they have.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

* Kraan L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING ENVY

REMEMBER

...thus says **the LORD**, he who **created you**, **O people of God**, he who **formed you**, **O Christians**: "Fear not, for **I have redeemed you**, **I have called you by name**, **you are mine...** For **I am the LORD your God**, the **Holy One of Israel**, your **Savior**. **I ransomed you**. Because **you are precious in my eyes**, and **honored**, and **I love you**, **I gave my Son in exchange for your life...**" (Isaiah 43:1,3-4 adapted)

BATTLING ENVY

CONFESS* Pray with me.

We may acknowledge the gifts that others possess, but then we focus on their faults. We refuse to remove the log of wood from our own eye before removing the speck from the eye of another.

All: **Forgive us, Father.**

We can be entirely ungracious toward our fellow humans. We do not love others as we love ourselves, and in so doing, we fail to love you, the Creator of all.

* Kraan L, *ibid.*

BATTLING ENVY

CONFESS* *Pray with me.*

All: **Forgive us, Father in heaven, and in your mercy change our hearts and put our sins out of your sight. We ask this in the name of our Lord, who set us the example of sharing our joys and sorrows. Amen.**

* Kraon L, *ibid.*

BATTLING ENVY

WORK: *What can you do to battle envy?*

- **Rejoice** in others' success as if it were yours
- Practice **gratitude** (e.g. thank you notes)
- Practice **hidden acts of love**
- Involve yourself in activities with **shared common good** (e.g. music, art, nature)
- Learn to appreciate people and things **outside of a competitive framework**
- **Zeal** for the body of Christ

DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*

BATTLING ENVY

ASSURANCE OF PARDON* *Pray with me.*

People of God, hear the Word of the Lord as he comforts us from Psalm 103:

All: **Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—**

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: **Satisfied by the Lord, we put away envy and jealousy. We praise the Lord with a grateful heart for his blessings. Amen.**

* Kraon L, *ibid.*

BATTLING ENVY

COMMUNITY: Zeal (~Thomas Aquinas)

"A **zealous person** can see clearly that another excels her. Because the zealous person is already secure in God's love for her, however, a love which is not conditional upon her performance, she is **free to look at herself with honest humility and desire to be better**. She acts from the conviction that the church is a body, not of competitors for God's esteem and favor...but of saints who can encourage each other along the way.

BATTLING ENVY



BATTLING ENVY

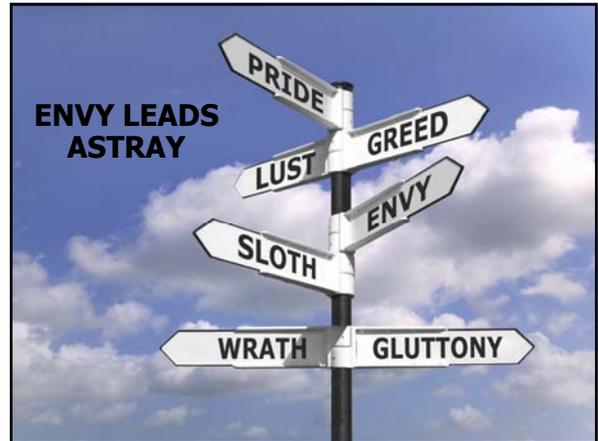
COMMUNITY: Zeal (~Thomas Aquinas)

"To have **zeal** is to see in our superiors and those we admire a model to imitate. Envy seeks to bring another down; **zeal seeks to be lifted up and made better**... Whereas envy isolates us, **zeal brings us into mentoring relationships within the communion of saints**... The saints and those we admire as excellent are not rivals that threaten, but inspirations..."

DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*

BATTLING ENVY

COMMUNITY: How else may we persevere together to battle envy?



BATTLING ENVY

SABBATH REST: Are you well enough rested to battle envy in your life?
In your neighbor's life?

JESUS RE-DIRECTS

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them...When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!" (John 21:20-22)

Jesus says to you:

**"If it is my will that _____,
What is that to you? You follow me!"**



GRACE TO HELP IN A TIME OF NEED
HEBREWS 4:14-16

Rich Lanning	Colleen Grogan
Michael Lyons	Erin Lyons
Rick Schatz	Sharon Schatz
Mark Verhagen	Becky Verhagen
Steve Langdon	Stephanie Langdon
	Sue Crosset

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

- DeYoung RK, *Glittering Vices*, Brazos 2009.
- Kraan L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." *Reformed Worship*, December 2015 (Issue #118).
- Piper J, "Battling the Unbelief of Envy", *Desiring God*, November 14, 1988.

OPENING REMARKS

- Questions (and answers) are welcomed. Please hold comments to the end (time permitting).
- Addressing sin is complicated, painful, personal & critical.
- Remember, I am not addressing those who are dead in their sins...

VICE

HABITS OF SIN

VAINGLORY

WEEK 3 JANUARY 28, 2018

CLASS GOALS

- **Recognize the habits of sin** (Eph 5:13).
- **Conviction, NOT shame** (1 Cor 7:8-10).
- **Enabled to battle vice** (Eph 6:10-18).
- **Bear one another's burdens** (Gal 5:13-6:2).
- **Gospel of Jesus unhindered** (Acts 28:31).

C·S· LEWIS

The
WEIGHT
of
Glory

"I am not forgetting how quickly the **lawful pleasure of praise** from those whom it is my duty to please turns into the **deadly poison of self-admiration**. But I thought I could detect a moment during which the satisfaction of having pleased those whom I rightly loved and rightly feared was pure. And that is enough to raise our thoughts to what may happen when the redeemed learn at last that **we have pleased Him for whom we were created to please**. There will be no room for vanity then. **We will most innocently rejoice in the thing God has made us to be.**"

WHAT IS GLORY?

Glory: the manifest goodness of something (Aquinas)

Do humans rightly have glory?

"...let your **light shine** before others so that they may see your **good works** and give **glory** to your Father in heaven." (Matt 5:16)

"For what is our hope or joy or **crown of boasting** before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For **you are our glory** and joy." (1Thes 2:19-20)

WHAT IS GLORY?

"Every perfect thing communicates itself to other things as much as it can, and this belongs to everything because everything imitates the first perfect thing, namely, God, who **communicates his goodness** to everything...so it seems to belong to a natural appetite that **one wishes one's goodness to become known**. Therefore, if one relates this desire to a **proper end, it will belong to virtue**, and if one does not, it will belong to [vainglory]."

Thomas Aquinas, *On Evil* (via DeYoung, *Vainglory*)

WHAT IS VANITY?

Vanity: something lacking in substance or value



WHAT IS GLORY?

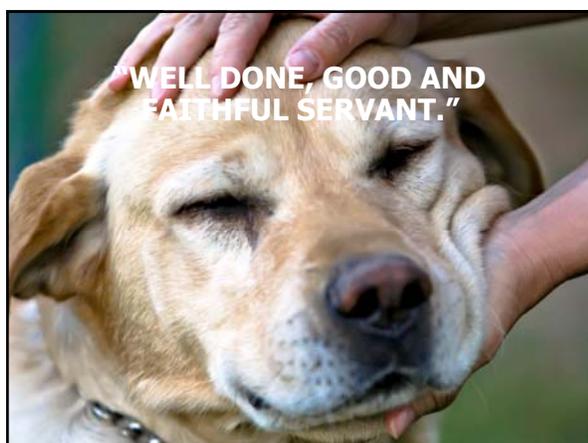
- Christians have glory derived from God.
- As God's goodness calls attention to Him, your good deeds (i.e. your derivative glory) should draw attention to God.
- When humans receive proper attention and affirmation for proper good deeds, this contributes to human flourishing (virtue).
- Your glory goes wrong when you fail to see it as a "foretaste of the approval of God" and see it as an "end grounded in the fickle foundation of human approval." DeYoung, *Vainglory*

WHAT IS VAINGLORY?

Vainglory: glory desired for **vain things** and/or to **vain ends**

Vain things:

- False:** phony as "good"
Such as?
- Nefarious:** evil as "good"
Such as?
- Fluff:** superficial or meaningless as "good"
Such as?



WHAT IS VAINGLORY?

Vainglory: glory desired for **vain things** and/or to **vain ends**

Vain ends:

- Self**—to make your name great (pride)

A TALE OF TWO CITIES...

"...**two cities** have been formed by **two loves**: the **earthly city by the love of self**, even to the contempt of God; the **heavenly by the love of God**, even to the contempt of self. The former, in a word **glories in itself**; the **latter in the Lord**. For the one **seeks glory from [humans]**; but the **greatest glory of the other is God**, the witness of conscience. The one **lifts up its head in its own glory**; the other **says to its God: 'You are my glory, and the lifter of my head.'**"

St. Augustine, *The City of God* (via DeYoung *Vainglory*)

VAINGLORY REVEALED IN US

How might vainglory be leading the Christ followers at ECC astray?

Ambition	Inappropriate humor
Desire to impress	Slighted easily
Crave approval	Bragging
Hide your faults	Refuse help
Show off	Perfectionism
Arrogance	Self righteousness
Condescending	Fear of failure

YOUR RIGHT GLORY

- Is from God's goodness in creating & calling**
- Is following Jesus**
- Is faithfulness, loyalty to God in Christ**
- Is being an image-bearer**
- Is flourishing in virtue**
- Is the Spirit-filled glorification of God**

Vainglory leads astray...

VAINGLORY LEADS ASTRAY

How might vainglory be compromising the mission of God at ECC?

VAINGLORY'S DAUGHTER SINS

- Hypocrisy**: pretending to have goodness to be thought better of
- Boasting**: exaggerating and/or proclaiming your goodness
- 'Love of novelty'**: seeking "latest and greatest" to attract attention
- Obstinacy**: insisting on your own judgment
- Discordancy**: refusing to agree with those wiser than you
- Contentiousness**: verbal quarreling to assert your "goodness"
- Disobedience**: refusing to obey those rightly over you

RK DeYoung, *Vainglory*

BATTLING VAINGLORY

- **OPERATIONAL PLANNING**
 - **Gift: set free from sin** (Rom 6:22-23)
 - **Work out our salvation because God works in us** (Phil 2:12-13)
 - **Wrestle against spiritual forces of evil** (Eph 6:10-12)
- **EQUIPMENT & TACTICS**
 - **Scripture / Prayer / Liturgy** ("Worship service")
 - **Flee, talk back, remember, confess, Lord's Supper, work, community, Sabbath rest**
- **OBJECTIVES** (Phil 3:12-14)
 - **Repentance, Perseverance, New Creation**

BATTLING VAINGLORY

FLEEING: What? How?

- Discern where to flee the people, places, situations or things that prompt you to vainglory.
- "Our culture forms us to crave recognition. Our social world—online and in person—is a whirl of attention-seeking, an expected way of life. Vainglory is a social vice; its pollution is the very air we breath. **The more opportunities for publicity we have, the more problems with vainglory we potentially face.**"

RK DeYoung, *Vainglory*

BATTLING VAINGLORY

REMEMBER: What?

Your chains, your freedom; your victories, God's faithfulness.

BATTLING VAINGLORY

TALKING BACK: What to say to yourself?

- "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)
- "'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends." (2Cor 10:17-18)

BATTLING VAINGLORY

REMEMBER: What?

Your death.

The advice of **Abba Macarius** the Egyptian:

"...If you wish to be saved [you] must do the same and become a dead man. Like the dead, take no account of either the scorn of men or their praises."

BATTLING VAINGLORY

REMEMBER: What?

Who you are:

You have been crucified with Christ; you no longer live, but Christ lives in you; you have been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ; you live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit (Galatians 2:20,3:27,5:25)

BATTLING VAINGLORY

CONFESS* Pray with me.

Father in Heaven, forgive us for being [vainglorious] people. So often we think that we are righteous by our own actions, rather than receiving righteousness through the blood of Christ. We do not like to admit that we are weak, and instead we look at the failings of others. We often think that we are better than others, and we expect them to be perfect for us.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Forgive us for having an arrogant attitude toward our neighbors in the body of Christ, toward our neighbors who don't yet know you, and toward those we don't know but stereotype. We fail to see our neighbors as people made in your image.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

* Kroon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins," *Reformed Worship*, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING VAINGLORY

CONFESS* **Pray with me.**

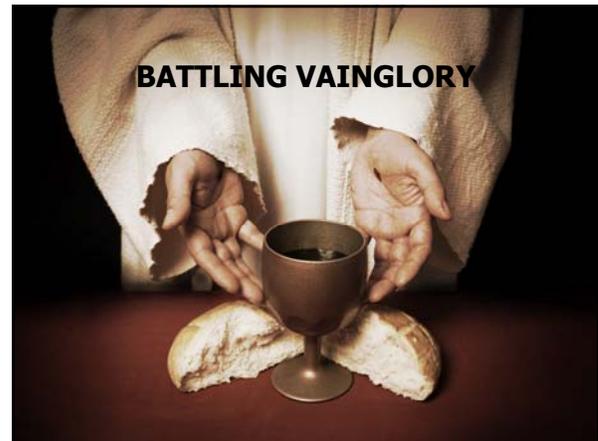
Sometimes, Lord, in our quest for perfection we fail to use the gifts you have given to us. We are afraid that others will see us as less than perfect, forgetting that only you are perfect.

All: **Forgive us, Lord.**

Forgive us, Lord, for [our vainglory]. Help us to see ourselves and our neighbor through your eyes—the eyes that looked at the world from the perspective of the cross.

All: **Forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

* Kraon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).



BATTLING VAINGLORY

ASSURANCE OF PARDON* **Pray with me.**

Hear the Word of the Lord from Philippians 2:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

All: **Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.**

* Kraon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING VAINGLORY

WORK: **What can you do to battle vainglory?**

- **Do good works anonymously.**
- **Silence.** Fast from talking (and posting) about yourself.
- **Solitude.** Remove your audience.
- **Be honest.** Don't exaggerate.
- **Be vulnerable.** Share your struggles and failures.
- **Give genuine compliments.** Don't flatter or gush.
- **Receive compliments well.**
- **Seek spiritual direction.**

BATTLING VAINGLORY

ASSURANCE OF PARDON* **Pray with me.**

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

* Kraon L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." Reformed Worship, December 2015 (Issue #118).

BATTLING VAINGLORY

COMMUNITY: **What can we do to battle vainglory?**

- **"Enlarge your sense of dependence on others."**
- **Participate in genuine friendships.**
- **Affirm and encourage goodness in one another.**
"Circle of virtue" vs. "Onion layers of vice"
- **Be bold in hospitality.**

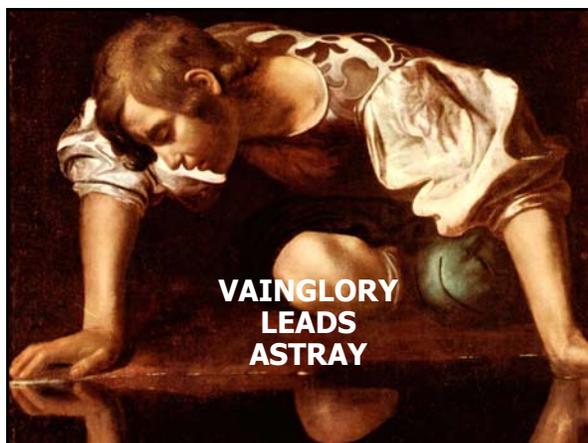
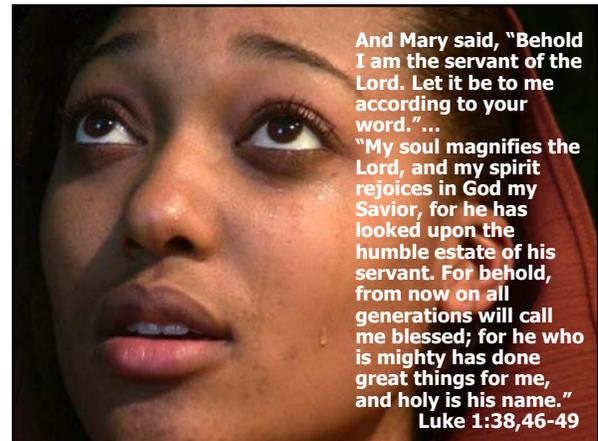
BATTLING VAINGLORY

SABBATH REST: Are you well enough rested to battle vainglory in your life? Are you making this a priority?

MAGNANIMITY RE-DIRECTS

"Magnanimous people concern themselves with achieving great and hard-won acts of virtue as something to which God has called them. Their achievements are genuinely worthy of honor. They are things that turn our thoughts to the glory of God because they obviously aren't something anyone could have done without grace. **Magnanimous people radiate God's beauty and goodness in the world, drawing others to that glory, a glory that transcends the person and his or her act.**"

RK DeYoung, *Glittering Vices*, p 65.



GRACE TO HELP IN A TIME OF NEED
 HEBREWS 4:14-16

Rich Lanning	Colleen Grogan
Michael Lyons	Erin Lyons
Rick Schatz	Sharon Schatz
Mark Verhagen	Becky Verhagen
Steve Langdon	Stephanie Langdon
	Sue Crosset

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

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- DeYoung RK, *Vainglory: The Forgotten Vice*. Eerdman's 2014.
- Kraan L, "Confession, Assurance and the Seven Deadly Sins." *Reformed Worship*, December 2015 (Issue #118).
- Lewis CS, *The Weight of Glory*. HarperCollins 1949.

VICE
HABITS OF SIN

ANGER
WEEK 6 FEBRUARY 18, 2018

VICE
HABITS OF SIN

SLOTH (ACEDIA)
WEEK 4 FEBRUARY 4, 2018

The pleasure of anger – the gnawing attraction which makes one return again and again to its theme – lies, I believe, in the fact that one feels entirely righteous when one is angry. Then the other person is pure black, and you are pure white. C.S. Lewis



VICE
HABITS OF SIN

GREED
WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 11, 2018

VICE
HABITS OF SIN

GLUTTONY
WEEK 7 FEBRUARY 25, 2018

