

7 Sins & 7 Virtues Class #5 Laziness vs. Diligence

*“Hold fast to discipline,
never let her go, keep your
eyes on her, she is your life.”*
Proverbs 4:13 NJB

*The lazy man has no game to
roast; **diligence** is anyone’s
most precious possession*
Proverbs 12:27 NIV

*Lazy people are always
anxious to be doing
something.*

**Luc Vauvenargues,
Marquis de (1715–47),**
French moralist.

Prayer – Lord, you are the source of all that is good, all that is meaningful and all that is worthy of our attention and effort. But we are distracted by many things, we are captivated by desires contrary to your will, and we tire easily at attempts to discover what pleases you and also in our efforts to do good to others or even ourselves. We want things to come to us without effort, without concentration, and without conflict. We want to be served, not to serve. Forgive our laziness, have mercy on our fears, and grant us courage and a willing spirit to pursue you and others with actions and deeds, and to do so without griping and complaining. Let us find diligence – and the joy that comes with it.

Texts – “In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is **idol** and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example.... For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”

We hear that some among you are **lazy**. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right. **II Thessalonians 3:3-12**

“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same **diligence** to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become **lazy**, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. “
Hebrews 6:10-12

Definitions and Perspectives –

LAZY, INDOLENT, SLOTHFUL mean not easily aroused to activity. LAZY suggests a disinclination to work or to take trouble. INDOLENT suggests a love of ease and a settled dislike of movement or activity. SLOTHFUL implies a temperamental inability to act promptly or speedily when action or speed is called for.

DILIGENCE: The main idea is to give focused attention to something not only with thought but with action. To be diligent (which is very akin to “Discipline”) is to actively engage with a matter; whether it is work, or study, or spiritual pursuits, or anything else. Diligence is effort, it is work. Diligence, of course, can be applied to good or evil ends.

ISSUES:

Laziness – An Enemy of Love: One of the key reasons for identifying the “7 deadly vices or sins, and the 7 great virtues was their deeply negative or positive impact on our ability to give and receive LOVE. Love, of course being not only at the defining heart of Christianity, but also a defining quality of God himself.

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The vice of laziness hinders or prevents love, as well as a lot of other practical things like an income, or a college degree, or a clean house..., and diligence is the one of the critical virtues that can cultivate love, as well as the other practical things we enjoy in life.

Here is why: *"Love is not effortless, to the contrary it is effortful...and love does not dread giving, it wants to give... Love is seated in action not feeling [alone]. Love is as love does... Paying attention, really paying attention, is the work of love. Since love is work, the essence of non-love is laziness.*

* **Laziness in relationships**

- Eli and his sons II Sam 2:12-26

* **Laziness masked by 'busyness'**

* **Laziness and fear of failure... or just fear**

- The **sluggard** says, "There is a lion outside! Prov. 22:13

- Life is difficult...

* **Laziness and hedonism – *I just love what I luv!***

The Right Path to Diligence

• **Do the most important thing first.**

(sometimes the most immediate needs are indeed the most important to attend to, but very often they are not. We cannot continually get caught up in the tyranny of the urgent.)

• **Training vs. Trying**

*"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, **train** yourself to be godly."* I Tim 4:7

• **Creating Margins/Sabbath in your life**