

The Seven Deadly Sins

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What are the seven deadly sins? They are wrath (or anger), sloth (laziness), envy, greed, gluttony (eating too much for pleasure), pride and lust. And they are very bad for you.

They are also the flavours of a new version of Magnum ice-creams recently brought out by Unilever. Some European church leaders have even been getting angry about the new ice-creams (even though that is a deadly sin). They claim that sins are a serious matter and that eating the ice-creams with these names will encourage people to turn away from the church. Others, outside the churches, believe that it will be good publicity for the churches on the basis that there is no such thing as bad publicity. Certainly the manufacturers must be happy about the free publicity caused by the churches' complaints.

More seriously, a few years ago Fred Pryer Seminars drew up a classification of people, who were difficult to work with, based on the seven deadly sins. They identified seven classic types of deadly sinners. The **Autocratic Dictator** keeps others down and is quickly angered and unpredictable. The **Critical Advice Giver** thinks they are the world expert of everything and looks down on everyone else. The **Tight Lip** doesn't communicate except in angry monosyllables. The **Back Stabber** spreads nasty rumours about people and then acts all innocent. The **Fault Finder** finds problems with everything and blames everyone else. The **Soothing Delayer** pleasantly refuses to do things and tells people not to worry.. The **Downer** thinks that everything is going to get worse and depresses everyone.

A: Now answer these questions

1. How did Unilever use the names of sins in its business?
2. What flavour (sin) ice-cream is your favourite?
3. What other sins would you add to the list?

B: With a partner create a situation describing a sin without mentioning it by name, the others guess the sin described.

C: Which adjectives relate to the types of people in Fred Pryer Seminars classification? Write three features for each type in the middle column.

The Autocratic Dictator		reserved	easy-going
The Critical Advice Giver		snobbish	irresponsible
The Tight Lip		shy	gloomy
The Back Stabber		aggressive	lazy
The Fault Finder		pessimistic	ambitious
The Soothing Delayer		moody	nosey
The Downer		critical	grudging
		cowardly	distrustful
		bossy	intolerant
		self-confident	closed
		big-headed	

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D. Vocabulary and Speaking

1. What kind of people is it easy/difficult to work with?
Use the list of the adjectives given below.

unreliable	flexible	spontaneous	dishonest	extrovert
unfriendly	cautious	insensitive	consistent	indecisive
enthusiastic	selfish	co-operative	creative	

2. Which features of character do you think are required to be a police officer? (eg. tolerance, ability to listen). Which of the mentioned features do you yourself have?
3. Describe the work style, behaviour and character of a person in the room without mentioning his name. Others guess who the person is.
4. Which sins are the motives for these crimes and behaviours?

murder	theft	arson	speeding
adultery	vandalism	pickpocketing	fraud
rape	treason		

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Teacher's Notes

Procedure:

1. Before reading the text ask the students the following questions:
 1. When did you last read the Bible?
 2. When did you last confess?
 3. What are deadly sins?
 4. What do you think the text "The Seven Deadly Sins" is about?
2. Give out a copy of the worksheet. Ask the students to cover the questions beneath the text. Students read and react to the text.
3. Ask the students whether their predictions were correct.
4. Then students answer the questions under the text.
5. Ask the Ss to create a situation, describing a sin, without mentioning it by name, the others guess the sin described.
6. Adjectives - suggested answers:

The Autocratic Dictator	bossy, aggressive, ambitious
The Critical Advice Giver	snobbish, big-headed, self-confident
The Tight Lip	reserved, closed, shy
The Back Stabber	cowardly, nosey, distrustful
The Fault Finder	grudging, critical, intolerant
The Soothing Delayer	lazy, easy-going, irresponsible
The Downer	moody, pessimistic, gloomy

7. Allow students enough time for discussion.

If you feel the group can cope, offer the following for discussion:

Is there a difference between the morality the church advocates and the morality of ordinary life?