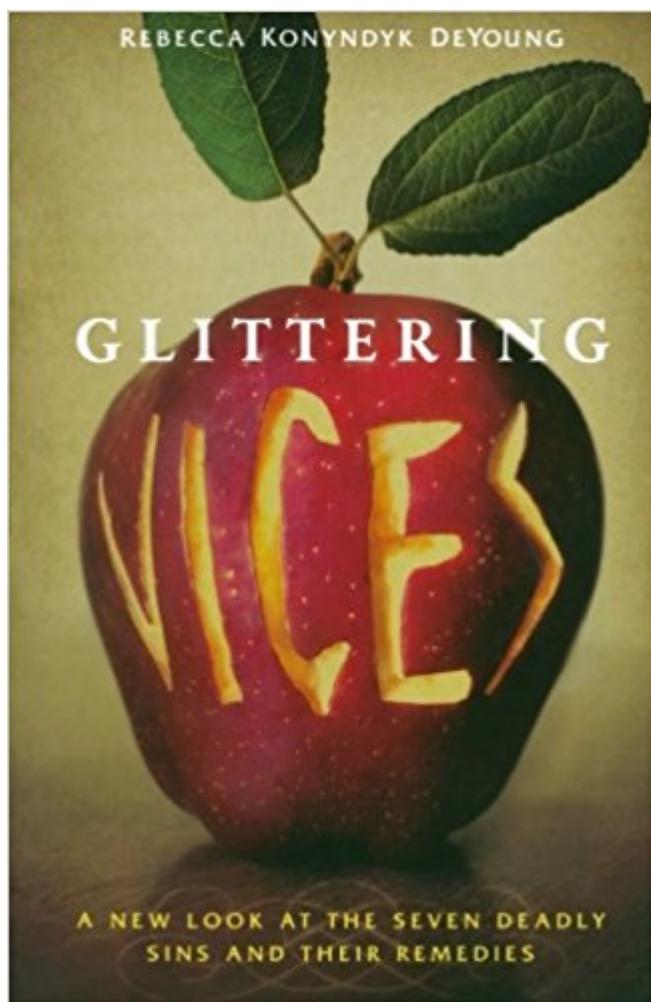


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# Glittering Vices: A New Look At The Seven Deadly Sins And Their Remedies



## Synopsis

Contemporary culture trivializes the "seven deadly sins," or vices, as if they have no serious moral or spiritual implications. *Glittering Vices* clears this misconception by exploring the traditional meanings of gluttony, sloth, lust, and others. It offers a brief history of how the vices were compiled and an eye opening explication of how each sin manifests itself in various destructive behaviors. Readers gain practical understanding of how the vices shape our culture today and how to correctly identify and eliminate the deeply rooted patterns of sin that are work in their own lives. This accessible book is essential for any reader interested in spiritual disciplines and character formation.

Excerpt Very simply, a virtue (or vice) is acquired through practice repeated activity that increases our proficiency at the activity and gradually forms our character. . . . We often need external incentives and sanctions to get us through the initial stages of the process, when our old, entrenched desires still pull us toward the opposite behavior. But with encouragement, discipline, and often a role model or mentor, practice can make things feel more natural and enjoyable as we gradually develop the internal values and desires corresponding to our outward behavior. Virtue often develops, that is, from the outside in. This is why, when we want to reform our character from vice to virtue, we often need to practice and persevere in regular spiritual disciplines and formational practices for a lengthy period of time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The traditional teachings on the seven deadly sins, or capital vices, compiled by Christian luminaries such as Augustine, Pope Gregory I, and Aquinas, offer a strong foundation for recognizing virtues to

cultivate and vices to avoid. Unfortunately, contemporary culture trivializes, psychologizes, or even dismisses the seven deadly sins as if they have no serious moral or spiritual implications. *Glittering Vices* clears that misconception with a brief history of the vices and an informative, edifying chapter on each mortal sin. Through this eye-opening book, readers will be able to correctly identify and resist the deeply rooted patterns of sin that are at work in their lives."Glittering Vices is a lucid, historically informed, and well-illustrated exploration of the seven deadly vices. DeYoung's book will unquestionably help teachers, students, and laypersons toward the Socratic and Christian goal of self-examination. This is an invaluable guide for anyone seeking self-understanding, spiritual growth, and philosophical insight."--W. Jay Wood, Wheaton College"Rebecca DeYoung here gives us an in-depth, informing, and frequently fascinating look at the vices and why they glitter. For the believer, reading her words will become, in and of itself, an act of spiritual formation."--Phyllis Tickle, author of *Greed*"This book is a treat for the mind and a tonic for the soul, recovering and refining riches in the Christian tradition almost lost from view. It is not often that one reads a work that is as intellectually deep and sharp as this one, but which is also intensely practical: helping its readers become the persons they were created to be."--C. Stephen Evans, Baylor University"This lively introduction to the Christian psychology behind the capital vices, or deadly sins, engages contemporary film and fiction even as it sifts the wisdom of Aquinas, Gregory, and Cassian. In DeYoung, the rich tradition of self-examination through the lens of the capital vices has found a contemporary advocate, faithful and wise."--Robert B. Kruschwitz, director of the Center for Christian Ethics, Baylor University

Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung (Ph.D., University of Notre Dame) is associate professor of philosophy at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She wrote the "seven deadly sins" entry for the Encyclopedia of Christianity and collaborated with two of her seminary students to develop a high school/college curriculum on the subject.

I was looking for a good book on the seven "deadly" sins and this book exceeded my expectations. If you are looking for a folksy, superficial read - this is not going to be it. DeYoung delves deeply into each of the seven deadly or "capital" vices, defining clearly what they are, how they derive their foundation in pride (the "father" of the seven), and how to recognize each of them in our lives. Perhaps most importantly, she clearly illustrates WHY each of these vices leads to destructive behaviors, relationships, and spirituality. And then, to top it all off, she illustrates how each of these vices are generally opposed against various virtues (e.g., envy opposed to love and closely tied to

vainglory) and how we can practically try to overcome these vices in our daily living. The book is very well written and DeYoung's writing style is intelligent, yet imminently readable. This book is rooted in Christianity, and DeYoung clearly articulates how each of these vices is caused by an improper relationship to God. As such, it's geared more towards a Christian audience though I believe it's a great read for anyone that is simply looking for some spiritual guidance or self-knowledge. I like the fact that she draws from a wide variety of literary sources and historical figures. She draws not just from the Bible, but a lot from theological/philosophical giants such as Augustine, Gregory, Aquinas, and Aristotle. At the same time, she'll reference pop culture like Robert DeNiro, REM or Amadeus (the movie), her own experiences as a professor and a mother, and more contemporary authors like Buechner or C.S. Lewis. There's also a great history on how the seven deadly sins came about in theology, which was a helpful context - given that they are never explicitly listed as such in the Bible. If I had a complaint about this book, it would be a small one. At times, I felt she could make her points somewhat more succinctly. But I'm really splitting hairs here. The bottom line is that if you are struggling and not at peace, then please buy this book and read it. You may find that the cause of your situation is not so much your family, your house, your friends, or your job. But rather, it could be the negative patterns of vice ingrained in your life. Hope that helps!

Thoughtful Christians who have gone before realized there are certain patterns in a fallen world that lead to a moral sickness that affects society. Knowing these behaviors enables us to understand and guard against specific sins rather than praying a general confession of sin. It's a little like treating cancer; a generic dose of chemo might do you some good but thankfully we live in a day when doctors can target specific cancers with specific forms of treatment. If we can identify our own vices more specifically we will be able to treat them, and defeat them, by pursuing specific virtues. Rebecca DeYoung has provided a thorough and thoughtful treatment of "the seven deadly sins" while providing plenty of contemporary application. This is a virtuous work in an age of vice.

This is the second work by DeYoung I have read this year. She is brilliant, creative, culturally savvy, philosophically grounded and very accessible. If you are interested in the seven deadly sins, while it may not be the best introductory book for that, it is a fine "take you deeper" book. DeYoung is the kind of writer (and her theme is the kind of theme) that you must study and learn the main ideas she presents.... AND you must do personal reflection (even a lectio divina reading) on page after page. Her book deserves the kind of "deep reading" that Birkerts describes in the Gutenberg Elegies. If you like this book, then you should check out her latest on Vainglory: The Forgotten Vice. I am

hoping DeYoung will eventually write volumes on each of the deadly sins, which now seem to be America's preferred pastimes.

Scholarly but accessible. Contemporary and ancient. Those are the words I'd use to describe DeYoung's approach to the seven vices. I've read half a dozen books on the seven deadly sins this year and this one was the best of them all. It's an easy, entertaining read, yet backed up by solid research. If you are a pastor, student or writer looking for a good, accurate, historical overview of the seven deadly sins and are curious about how they mesh with contemporary western culture, this book has it all.

This book is very smart, and provides a lot of insight into not only one's self, but the people around us. It's theologically solid, and I will most definitely be keeping this book around as a resource. Read it with a highlighter ready, so you can look back at it later! I would recommend this to anyone considering reading it.

Slothful? Me!? Well crap.

The author examines each of the seven deadly vices from their origin to modern application. She weaves a common thread throughout the book by discussing each vice's connection to the root vice, pride.

We were using this book for Lent study. I found the book the best resource to have at my finger tips whenever I had a break to read. A handy resource.

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