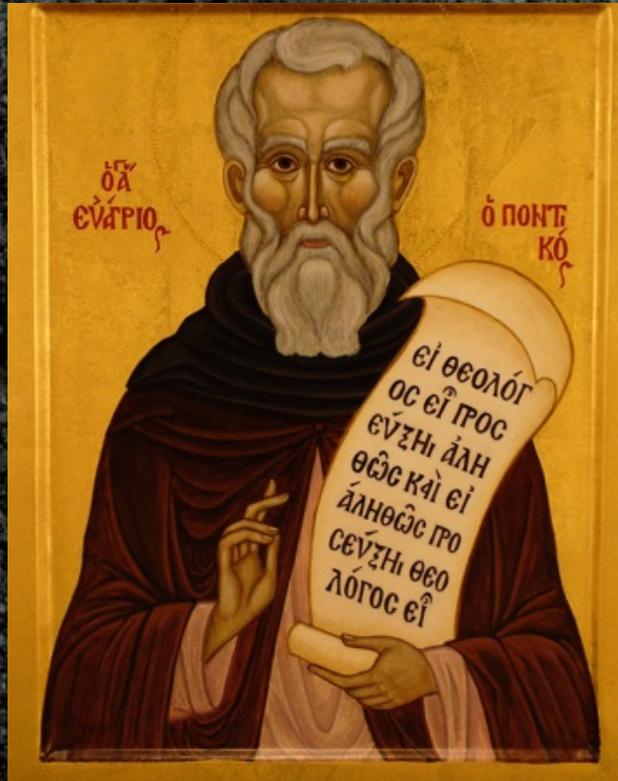


THE SE7EN

THE SLOW DEATH

Recap



Evagrius Ponticus
(346-399)



Pope Gregory
(540-604)

Both Evagrius and Gregory were concerned with the hidden desires that would keep people from acting and living as Christ intended

Recap

The “S” Word Four Premises

If you externalize sin then no one
(including yourself) is responsible

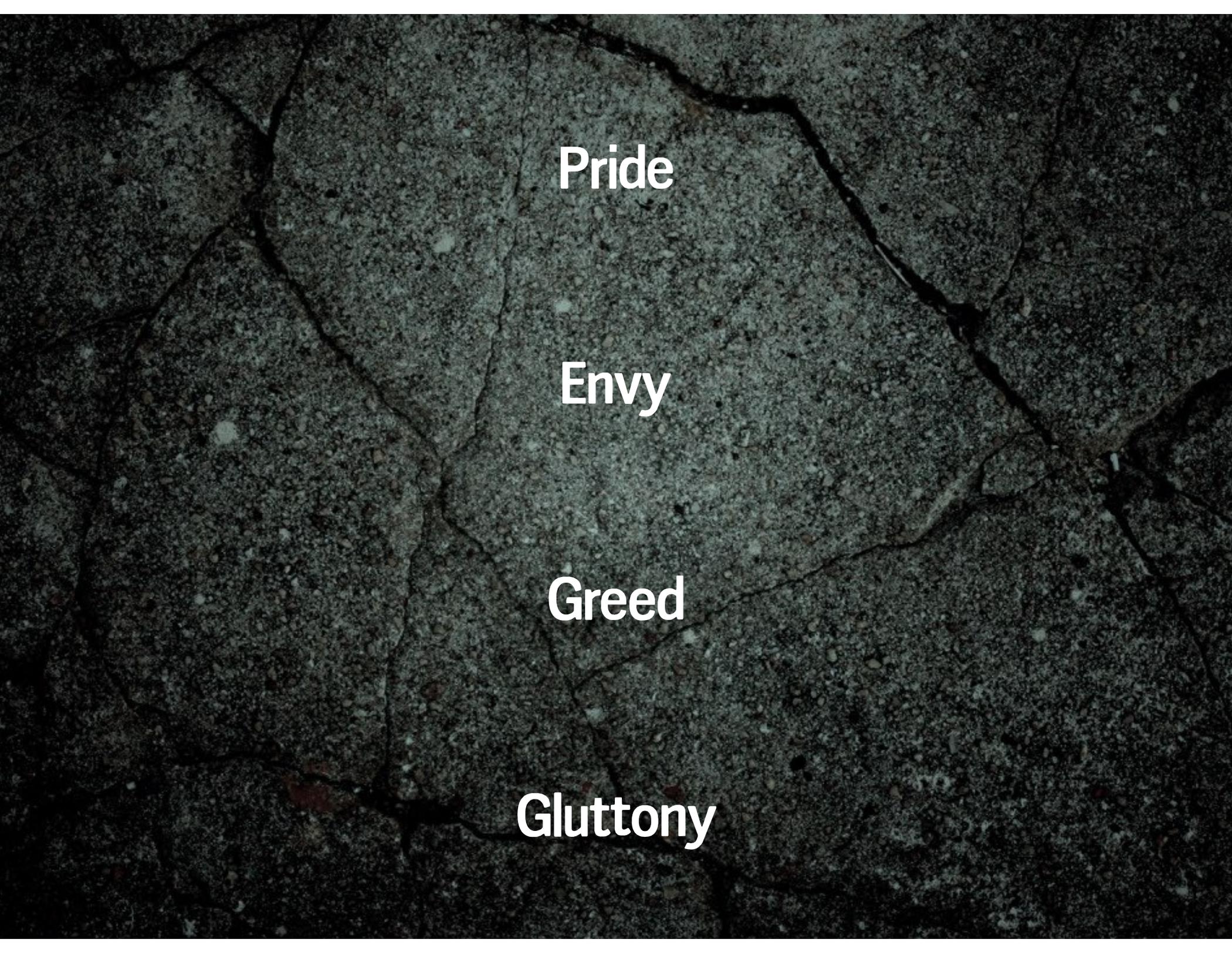
Western Christianity has
become about sin management

We make sin whatever offends us and turn
a blind eye to what we are comfortable
with (culturally accepted)

Every sin takes a who and makes them a what

Recap

The seven deadly sins were meant to be a spiritual diagnostic tool to understand our hidden nature



Pride

Envy

Greed

Gluttony

With soul-decaying apathy and carelessness toward others, sloth rightly takes its place among the seven deadly sins. It looks like simple laziness, but sloth **is a complex sin.**

Tony Reinke

The greatest threat to religion isn't anti-religious opposition because opposition implies that religion is still important or influential. The greatest threat to religion is really apathy because **people are apathetic about things which just don't matter anymore.**

Sloth \neq Lazy

Sloth is spiritual apathy

The busiest people can be slothful. The
busiest people IN church can be slothful

Layers of Sloth

Brian Hedges defines the sin of sloth with four characteristics: (1) carelessness (2) unwillingness to act (3) half-hearted effort and (4) becoming easily discouraged by any possible difficulty.

Layers of Sloth

Consequence #1: Other vices gain a foothold.

Consequence #2: God's gifts go unused, and God's call goes unfulfilled.

Consequence #3: I'm lying to myself about what brings me joy.

Churches of Revelation

Ephesus: so zealous for theological purity and yet growing coldly indifferent to one another

Smyrna: wracked with poverty as a result of persecution and suffering, yet standing firm.

Pergamum: so full of love and compassion but in danger of theological and moral compromise

Thyatira: the epitome of growth and development but overly tolerant of false teaching.

Sardis: known throughout the world for life and love, but in reality spiritual putrefaction was rampant

Philadelphia: so small, so seemingly insignificant, yet so diligent and patient in the face of a hostile world.

Laodicea was a wealthy city during the Roman period. Not only was Laodicea located on major trade routes that connected it to important cities like Ephesus, Smyrna and Sardis, but also it was a center of textile production and banking.

The Church of Sloth

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. [Revelation 3:15-18](#)

Lessons from the Laodiceans

I know your **deeds**, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! **vs 15**

The Laodicean church was judged by the lack of **accomplishing anything (spiritual report card)** for the Kingdom of Heaven

Lessons from the Laodiceans

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But **you do not realize** that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. **vs 17**

The affluence of the Laodicean church had lulled them into a false sense of spirituality and comfort

Lessons from the Laodiceans

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the **fire**, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. **vs 18**

The Laodiceans lacked the Holy Spirit as a vital part of their faith. The Spirit abhors **stagnation**

Lessons from the Laodiceans

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.
So be earnest and repent. **vs 19**

Rebuke-to correct towards transformation

Discipline-to correct erroneous behaviour/thinking

Earnest-excitement, fervour in the Spirit

Repent-change in direction

Lessons from the Laodiceans

So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to **spit you (vomit) out** of my mouth. **vs 16**

“Deed less” faith carries the strongest reaction from God

The chief danger of the Church today is that it is trying to get on the same side as the world, instead of **turning the world upside down**. Our Master expects us to accomplish results, even if they bring opposition and conflict. Anything is better than compromise, apathy, and paralysis. God give to us an intense cry for the old-time power of the Gospel and the Holy Ghost!

A. B. Simpson

Sloth Test

You have not experienced a Gift of the Spirit or movement in the life of the Spirit over the last year

Transformation

You are not consistently serving or using your resources to serve others individually or corporately

Discipleship

You have not shared the gospel/
your faith over the last year

Multiplication

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, **for the sake of his body, which is the church.** Colossians 1:24

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.** To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. vs 28-29