

## **The Seven Deadly Sins of the Academy and How Christians Can Respond**

The Academy provides Christians a place to grow and learn and also to serve. Followers of Jesus in universities have an amazing opportunity to bring the fragrance of Christ into the university community. But in more than 25 years of mentoring Christian professors, I have observed pitfalls which dedicated and well-meaning believers encounter in the university either as students or as professors. In spite of our love for the academy and our love for God, these sins can hinder our effectiveness, hamper our impact, and dampen our zeal for Christ. This seminar will present the seven deadly sins of the academy that will be faced by Christian scholars and university students along with ways to respond to them.

**Daryl McCarthy** joined Forum of Christian Leaders (FOCL) as Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategy in February 2015. He is also Director of the Academic Leaders Network which is being established as part of European Leadership Forum. After helping to found Global Scholars (formerly International Institute for Christian Studies), an international academic NGO which places Christians in teaching positions at universities outside of North America, he served as President from 1988 until 2014. In 2014 he was named President Emeritus of Global Scholars. Daryl and his wife Dr. Teri McCarthy have lived in Lithuania since 2010. Daryl earned a D.Min. from Fuller Theological Seminary, M.Div. from Nazarene Theological Seminary, and MA in Philosophy of Religion from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He has traveled to more than 55 nations and has spoken and lectured at universities, conferences and churches around the world. Daryl's passion is to see every university student in the world have at least one professor who can articulate the beauty, love, and lordship of Christ. In addition to writing and speaking, he mentors Christian professors and ministry leaders in Europe. He and Teri have one son and one daughter who are both married and they have four grandchildren.

- I. Deadly Sin # 1: Pride.** Using one's academic work as a means of gaining power and prestige for oneself rather than for God's glory.

Signs

Antidote

- II. Deadly Sin #2: No Sense of Calling.** Not embracing teaching and scholarship as a ministry and a holy calling from God to be done for His glory.

Signs

## Antidote

III. **Deadly Sin # 3: Dualism.** Inadequate love for Christ and His global mission and His all-encompassing Lordship. Three types of myopic dualism.

- A. Epistemological dualism—a worldview that is too narrow because it neglects Christ’s Lordship over *all* things.
- B. Missiological dualism—a worldview that is not truly global and neglects the global mission of Christ to *all* peoples and *all* nations.
- C. Spiritual dualism—a worldview that is not passionate for Christ and fervent in obedience to Him.

Antidote:

IV. **Deadly Sin # 4: Greed.** Hoarding our time and work for ourselves and focusing more on ideas and things than on people.

Signs:

Antidote:

- V. **Deadly Sin # 5: Lust.** Lust for power, prestige, and position leading to overwork, neglect of significant relationships and an unbalanced life.

Signs:

Antidote:

- VI. **Deadly Sin # 6: Fear.** Fear of others leading to either failure to share the Good News or manipulation and speaking about Jesus at inappropriate times or settings.

A. Fear which stifles sharing Christ.

B. Manipulation and insensitivity.

Antidote:

- VII. **Deadly Sin # 7: Dishonesty. Plagiarism and dishonesty about our scholarship**

Signs

Antidote:

***Suggested Readings:***

- Blamires, Harry. *The Christian Mind : How Should a Christian Think?* Ann Arbor, Mich.: Servant Books, 1963. Reprint, First American Edition 1978.
- Guinness, Os. *The Call*. Nashville: Word, 1998.
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- Malik, Charles. *The Two Tasks*. Westchester, Illinois: Crossways Books, 1980.
- Mandryk, Jason. *Operation World*. Colorado Springs: Biblica, 2010.
- Marsden, George. *The Outrageous Idea of Christian Scholarship*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Moreland, James Porter. *Love Your God with All Your Mind : The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul*. 2nd ed. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2012.
- Noll, Mark A. *Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Plantinga, Cornelius. *Engaging God's World—A Christian Vision of Faith, Learning, and Living*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Romanowski, Michael H., and Teri McCarthy. *Teaching in a Distant Classroom : Crossing Borders for Global Transformation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2009.