

SEVEN SINS AND SEVEN VIRTUES — Pride and Humility

Definitions and Perspectives

- ▶ PRIDE — A sense of self-respect, joy in one's self or one's accomplishments. When exaggerated, pride (vanity or arrogance) discounts the grace of God, or the worth of others. *Hubris*, or excessive pride, was usually the defining trait that led to a tragic hero's downfall according to Aristotle.
- ▶ HUMILITY — The state of being unpretentious and modest: someone who does not think that he or she is better or more important than others. Humility is not to be confused with humiliation, a state of feeling ashamed or of diminished worth.
- ☀ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who ... emptied himself ...humbled himself ... to the glory of God the Father. — *Philippians 2:5-11*

What Makes Personal Ambition Advantageous *or* Detrimental?

- ▶ CONTRIBUTION — How, in this context, do we unpack the biblical challenge to be fruitful, to multiply the investment of talents, to strive for the higher gifts, etc.?
- ▶ COMMUNITY — Endowments by God are given through the individual to the community. How does exaggerated-pride or false-humility inhibit the process?
- ☀ Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant ... just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve ... — *Matthew 20:20-28*

Optional Self-Discovery and Self-Mastery

- ▶ SELF-AWARENESS — Chronicle your *conscious* episodes of self-regard: diminished or inflamed, healthy or unhealthy. How have these memories affected your freedom?
- ▶ SELF-DEVELOPMENT — How might a kindly coach (master) assess your unrealized capacity to be fulfilled, to contribute, to serve the greater good? What adjustments should you make in self-appraisal or self-deployment?
- ☀ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. — *Philippians 2:1-4 [also: Romans 12:2-3]*

Three Hinges on the Door of Character

- ▶ A GOOD CARPENTER — How to hang a door: level; yet, self-closing; aligned, with distributed weight; swinging in or out. [Hinge and Pivot and Fulcrum]
- ▶ DEFINITIVE ISSUES AND APPETITES — It is the answer, not the question that defines a soul. And some core questions present themselves to every person.
 - Pride, lust and greed (rightly understood) are self-*defeating*.
 - Obedience, chastity and poverty (rightly understood) are self-*actualizing*.
- ▶ A GOOD JESUIT — Sound moral philosophy portrays God's health and our freedom to be healthy. It is not naïve, nor sentimental, but paints life in wild expressive color.
- ☀ Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. — *John 15:9-14 [also: Galatians 5:13-14]*