



Foundations of Christian Spiritual Formation

Lesson 6 *Temptations of Spiritual Formation and the Seven Deadly Spiritual Sins*

Idol Factories

He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.' For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.' "

—Mark 7:20–23

*Many of the temptations of the spiritual life come from within our own hearts.

The human heart is a factory of idols . . . Everyone of us is, from his mother's womb, expert in inventing idols.

—John Calvin

*We are constantly making idols in our heart that take the place of God.

Idols of the Spiritual Life

***Morality** or **moral formation** is one of the main idols of the spiritual life.

*Many times we strive to be good and put that pursuit in place of pursuing the love of God.

***Self Discipline** or good works can become an idol in the spiritual life.

*We take pride in the hard work that we do spiritually to the extent that we subtly feel like we are earning God's love.

The Seven Deadly Spiritual Sins

*Spiritual Habit of Pride

*Spiritual Habit of Gluttony

*Spiritual Habit of Greed

*Spiritual Habit of Lust/Luxury

*Spiritual Habit of Envy

*Spiritual Habit of Anger

*Spiritual Habit of Apathy

Reflections

♣ What kind of idols have you created that took the place of your relationship with God?

♣ How does Moral Formation work against the true spiritual formation that God working in us?

♣ Which one of the seven deadly spiritual sins do you see at work in your own life?

♣ Pray David's prayer in Psalm 139:23–24 and finish out this class with a healthy time of meditation.

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is nay offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*