

2. Categories. (1) The area of weakness, which is the temptation to sin, (2) the area of strength, which is the source of human good and dead works done out of fellowship, and (3) the trends of legalism and antinomianism.¹
3. Lust. There are ten ägents prōvocateúrs² by which the sin nature tempts volition to allow them into the soul:

- (1) The **lust for power** is the desire to control or dominate others, which is manifested by the inordinate desire to be recognized and aggrandized.

This lust pattern is found to exist in the soul of Absalom when he sought to usurp David’s power as king in:

2 Samuel 15:4 Then Absalom would say, “Who will appoint me [Qal active imperfect of שׁוּם (*sum*): appoint, call, consider] judge [שָׁפַט (*shaphat*): governor] in the land of Israel, that every man who has a cause [מִשְׁפָּט (*mishpat*): a legal case, claim] could come to me and I would do him justice [שֶׁתִּצְדַּק (*sethaqah*)]. (EXT)

- (2) The **lust for pleasure** divorces a believer from the integrity provided by divine guidance from the Word of God. This is mentioned by Paul in **2 Timothy 3:4** where he writes that men will be “... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

The lust for pleasure diminishes and destroys the honor and virtue associated with one’s biblical integrity. There are many sources of pleasure that do not involve sinful activities.

- (3) The **lust for sex** reveals the loss or absence of honor in the soul of a believer. This lust pattern is the source of multiple sins practiced by vast numbers of U.S. citizens. Some include the following: fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, phallicism, rape, incest, pederasty, and pornography. Several of these are discussed by Paul in **Romans 1:18–32**.

- (4) The **lust for social standing** has to do with developing status from associates. This is nicely summarized by *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v. “social”:

¹ “One who rejects a socially established morality” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. (2014), s.v. “antinomianism”).

² “One employed to associate with suspected persons and by pretending sympathy with their aims to incite them to some incriminating action.” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, eleventh ed, s.v. “agents provocateurs.”)



Social: the interaction of the individual and the group, or the welfare of human beings as members of society; relating to or based on rank or status in a particular society; relating to or characteristic of the upper classes.

- (5) The **lust for approbation** is the habitual desire to acquire approval. The Lord provides a great example of this lust pattern in Matthew 6:1–6. The fifth verse reads like this:

Matthew 6:5 “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. (EXT)

- (6) The **lust for capital** is motivated by greed. Greed is the selfish desire to acquire more of something than is needed. Often this is expressed in the accumulation of capital: money, stocks, investments, real estate, precious metals, and collectables, i.e., art, stamps, coins, baseball cards, or antiques.
- (7) The **lust for stimulants** such as intoxicating drugs, drinks, or inhalants. Some within these categories may be enjoyed in moderation but dependency on one or more is addiction.
- (8) The **lust for rebellion** is a category that exposes the rejection of the laws of divine establishment. Some of its expressions include civil disobedience, criminality, paramilitary organizations, vigilante activities, social engineering, anti-Semitism, civil unrest, and socialism and progressivism which have their roots in communism.

In 1984, [George] Orwell warns of the socialist project of cleansing history where “the past is erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth.” That has almost happened in this case. Fortunately, we can still excavate the truths that lie buried under the progressive pálimpsest³ in order to save our history and, in the end, ourselves.⁴

³ “Writing material (as a parchment or tablet) used one or more times after earlier writing has been erased” in Dinesh D’Souza, *United States of Socialism: Who’s Behind It. Why It’s Evil. How to Stop It.* (New York: All Points Books, 2020), 40. This book’s copyright is over two years old and Orwell’s warning is presently underway in the United States.

⁴ D’Souza, *United States of Socialism.*



- (9) The **lust for revenge** is a mental-attitude sin that has its roots in jealousy and envy. We studied this progression in the soul of Ábsalom following Crown Prince Ámnon's rape of Ábsalom's sister, Tāmar, and King David's failure to prosecute Ámnon for his crime.
 - (10) The **lust for criminality** occurs when a believer reverts into the cosmic system's Arrogance Complex which is expressed by an insolent attitude that unlawfully disregards the rights, privacy, or property of others.
4. Those engaged in the sins of lust are constantly frustrated since most efforts are not fulfilled or, if accomplished, do not produce the desired result.
 5. Yet, the consistent result of these pursuits is frustration since the end result does not achieve the anticipated pleasure or happiness.
 6. This brings us to a study of:

The Doctrine of Capacity

A. Introduction.

1. For negative believers to come to a change of attitude toward Bible doctrine there is cursing turned to blessing in disaster.
2. For positive believers who have advanced to the high ground to receive the greater blessings of glorification of God, there is the greatest happiness a believer will ever have in this life.
3. Nothing will be greater happiness than the day we are absent from the body and face-to-face with the Lord, when there is no more sorrow, no more pain, no more death. That will be the beginning of a happiness that only gets greater as eternity goes on.
4. We are always looking for happiness and things that will make us happy. God knew this billions of years ago and provided for us the most fantastic system of happiness in time of prosperity, but an even greater system of happiness in time of adversity. The issue is not to be happy; the issue is to have capacity for happiness.
5. We must begin to realize the fact that there is in time of adversity the greatest opportunity for happiness and blessing from God built into the spiritual life.



6. Adversity is the challenge to the positive believer to enter the greatest happiness he will ever experience because of his relationship to the Lord in advancing to the high ground of spiritual maturity. There is no greater happiness in all of history. This is God's plan for your life since the day you believed in Christ.
7. Most normal people are looking for happiness but are not finding it. Believers do not find happiness because they are distracted from the unique spiritual life of the Church Age.
8. All too often the system of happiness that believers seek is based on a false premise called the "if system of happiness." The "if system of happiness" is a system of unreality, of dreaming, of hoping, of assuming that you do not have happiness because you do not have these things. It includes the following thoughts:
 - a. If I only married this or that person. You wish that you had married someone else. This is no capacity for love.
 - b. If I had only done this rather than that. This is the concept of no capacity for blessing. No capacity for blessing means you have failed to understand or execute the unique spiritual life of the Church Age.
 - c. If I only had this detail of life or that detail of life. This is no capacity for what God has provided. It is what we want rather than what God has provided for us, and He always knows what is best for us.
 - d. If I only had good luck. This means no capacity for the plan of God.
 - e. If I only had a million dollars. This is no capacity for prosperity. If God wanted you to have a million dollars, you would have a million dollars. This means no capacity for life.
 - f. If I could only have the man of my dreams. This means no capacity for true love.
 - g. If I could only meet the woman of my dreams. This is also no capacity for love. Capacity for true love comes from Bible doctrine. God provides the right man.
 - h. If I could achieve the approbation of this or that person. This means no capacity for occupation with the person of Jesus Christ.

