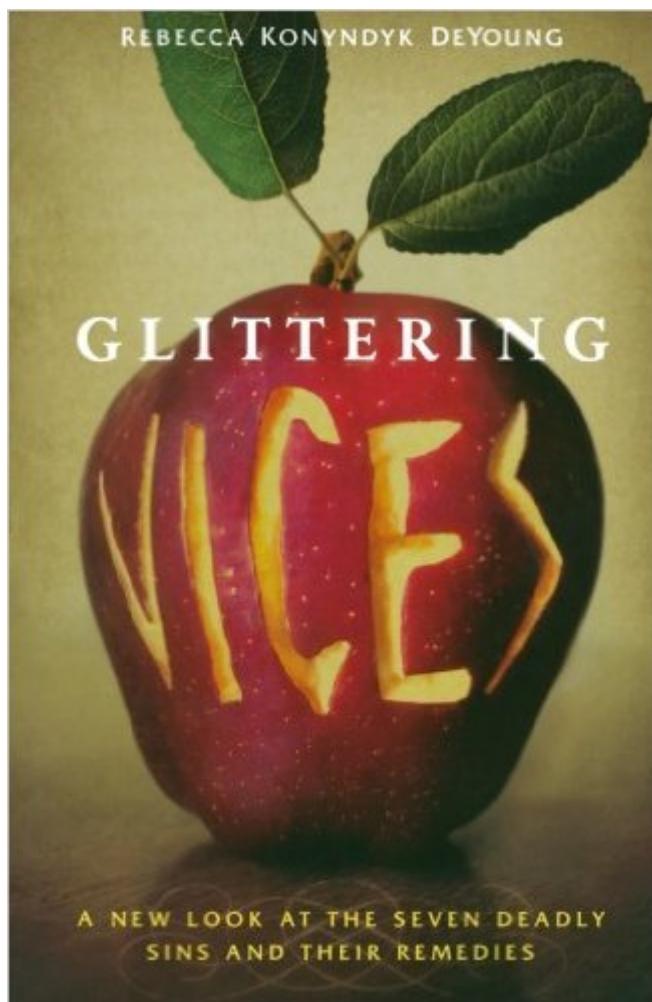


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Glittering Vices: A New Look At The Seven Deadly Sins And Their Remedies



Synopsis

Contemporary culture trivializes the "seven deadly sins," or vices, as if they have no serious moral or spiritual implications. *Glittering Vices* clears this misconception by exploring the traditional meanings of gluttony, sloth, lust, and others. It offers a brief history of how the vices were compiled and an eye opening explication of how each sin manifests itself in various destructive behaviors. Readers gain practical understanding of how the vices shape our culture today and how to correctly identify and eliminate the deeply rooted patterns of sin that are work in their own lives. This accessible book is essential for any reader interested in spiritual disciplines and character formation.

Excerpt Very simply, a virtue (or vice) is acquired through practice repeated activity that increases our proficiency at the activity and gradually forms our character. . . . We often need external incentives and sanctions to get us through the initial stages of the process, when our old, entrenched desires still pull us toward the opposite behavior. But with encouragement, discipline, and often a role model or mentor, practice can make things feel more natural and enjoyable as we gradually develop the internal values and desires corresponding to our outward behavior. Virtue often develops, that is, from the outside in. This is why, when we want to reform our character from vice to virtue, we often need to practice and persevere in regular spiritual disciplines and formational practices for a lengthy period of time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was looking for a good book on the seven "deadly" sins and this book exceeded my expectations. If you are looking for a folksy, superficial read - this is not going to be it. DeYoung delves deeply into

each of the seven deadly or "capital" vices, defining clearly what they are, how they derive their foundation in pride (the "father" of the seven), and how to recognize each of them in our lives. Perhaps most importantly, she clearly illustrates WHY each of these vices leads to destructive behaviors, relationships, and spirituality. And then, to top it all off, she illustrates how each of these vices are generally opposed against various virtues (e.g., envy opposed to love and closely tied to vainglory) and how we can practically try to overcome these vices in our daily living. The book is very well written and DeYoung's writing style is intelligent, yet imminently readable. This book is rooted in Christianity, and DeYoung clearly articulates how each of these vices is caused by an improper relationship to God. As such, it's geared more towards a Christian audience though I believe it's a great read for anyone that is simply looking for some spiritual guidance or self-knowledge. I like the fact that she draws from a wide variety of literary sources and historical figures. She draws not just from the Bible, but a lot from theological/philosophical giants such as Augustine, Gregory, Aquinas, and Aristotle. At the same time, she'll reference pop culture like Robert DeNiro, REM or Amadeus (the movie), her own experiences as a professor and a mother, and more contemporary authors like Buechner or C.S. Lewis.

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