

Have You a Little Devil in Your Home.

Every one has some spare time for the entertainment of guests -- angels or devils. A devil is pesky company. He comes in apologetically and is content with a tiny corner until he gets well established. But give him a chance: he soon has his feet on the mahogany, spits on the floor and takes control over the house. Look over your guests and see whether you have any of these seven registered:

1. Pride. This devil has more false-faces than Izzy Einstein. He comes on as humility, as charity, as zeal, meakness, self-respect, as any one of a score of virtues; he never gives his name as pride except when he knocks on the door of hell with a victim. Binet test for pride: see how you stand up under a kick on the shins.

2. Avarice. Judas gave this devil a sweet time. Test: let's go of a nickle with out getting any possible personal return.

3. Impurity. You have sunk pretty low if you let this guest park on the front porch. Weak characters with a little self-respect try to keep him in the slop. He is dangerous when he comes arm-in-arm with pride, or when he wears the disguise of love.

4. Anger. The devil pushed his way in by brute force and enlists pride to help him hold down his job. He is afraid of a club.

5. Envy. Envy is a she-devil, and has no place as housekeeper for an honest man.

6. Gluttony. "They kept the pig in the parlor" -- but it was a nice pig. Well-mannered and manicured, soft-spoken and soaped. Quality more than quantity determines gluttony. If you have favorite dishes or expensive tastes in food and drink, the little devil of gluttony has a place in you abode just as much as if you stuff your paunch with corned beef cabbage or insult your innards with green hootch.

7. Sloth. Here is the chummy devil who makes a comfortable companion. He offers to make all your hours leisure hours. He softens the mattress stuffs cotton in your ears and throws the alarm-clock out the window. He is the master mind on the inside job: as soon as he gets well established he opens up the back door to his six confederates. Test: six o'clock Mass during the dull days before Lent starts.

All Seven.

"When an unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places seeking rest and findeth none.

"Then he saith: I will return into my house from whence I came out. And coming he findeth it empty, swept and garnished.

"Then he goeth and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself: and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is made worse than the first. So shall it be also to this wicked generation."
-- Matt. 12; 43-45.

Remedy.

Don't let the devil find your heart empty when he comes back.