The 7 Deadly Sins And...
Why is Pride First?
How it All Started

Original Sin
The modern concept of the seven deadly sins is linked to the works of the 4th century monk Evagrius Ponticus, who listed eight evil thoughts in Greek:

- Γαστριμαργία gluttony
- Πορνεία prostitution, fornication
- Φιλαργυρία avarice
- Ὑπερηφανία hubris
- Λύπη sadness
- Ὄργη wrath
- Κενοδοξία boasting
- Ἄκηδία acedia, dejection
John Cassian: 5th Century

Cassian translated the Pontius descriptions into the Latin of Western Christianity thus becoming part of the Western tradition's spiritual Catholic devotions:

- Gula (gluttony)
- Fornicatio (fornication, lust)
- Avaritia (avarice/greed)
- Superbia (hubris, pride)
- Tristitia (sorrow, despair, despondency)
- Ira (wrath)
- Vanagloria (vainglory)
- Acedia (sloth)
Pope Gregory I: 6th Century

In AD 590, a little over two centuries after Ponticus wrote his list, Pope Gregory I revised the Cassian list to form the more common Seven Deadly Sins:

- **luxuria** (lechery/lust)
- **gula** (gluttony)
- **avaritia** (avarice/greed)
- **acedia** (sloth/discouragement)
- **ira** (wrath)
- **invidia** (envy)
- **superbia** (pride)
Virtues can be classified according to the virtues they oppose, or also be linked to the *capital sins* which Christian experience has distinguished, following St John Cassian and St. Gregory the Great. They are “capital” because they engender other sins, other vices. They are pride, avarice, envy, wrath, lust, gluttony, sloth.

Envy represents a form of sadness and therefore a refusal of charity; the baptized person should struggle against it by exercising good will. Envy often comes from pride; the baptized person should train himself to live in humility.
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The “Bad” are the 7 Deadly Sins as defined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1866

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bad</th>
<th>Ugly</th>
<th>Good</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pride</td>
<td>Assertiveness</td>
<td>Charity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avarice</td>
<td>Well-wishing + Action</td>
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<td>Envy</td>
<td>Admiration of Beauty</td>
<td>Culinary Art</td>
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<td>Wrath</td>
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<td>Rest</td>
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<td>Lust</td>
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<td>Gluttony</td>
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<td>Sloth</td>
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Why is Pride Number One?

If we define pride as rejecting God in favor of self, then it is no stretch to see how this prideful condition causes or at least greatly influences the commission of the remaining six deadly sins which in turn impact every other dimension of our sinful lives.
Discussion

1. What other positives can you ascertain that represent the “Good” in “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly?” Were there any surprises?

2. What is your reaction to Dr. Brandly’s comments in terms of Godly humility and application to your life?

3. How has today’s presentation shaped your view of the 7 deadly sins, especially pride?

4. How does this fit into our view of our own salvation?