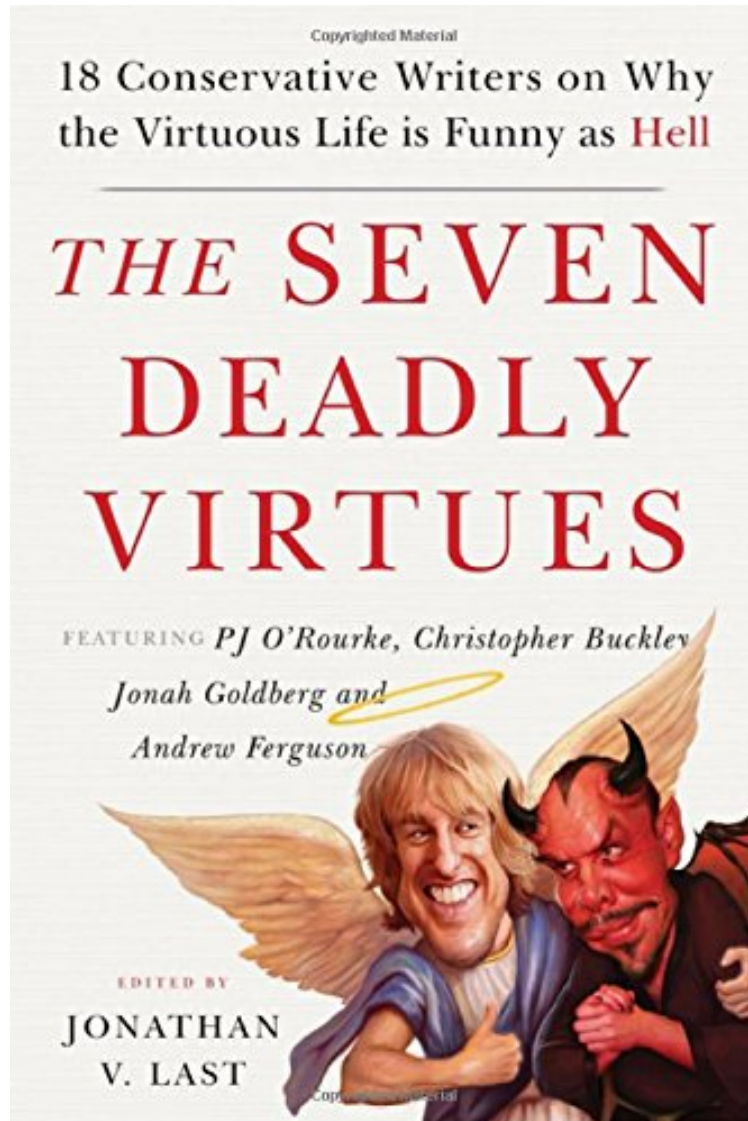


(Read free ebook) The Seven Deadly Virtues: 18 Conservative Writers on Why the Virtuous Life is Funny as Hell

The Seven Deadly Virtues: 18 Conservative Writers on Why the Virtuous Life is Funny as Hell

From Ingramcontent
audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#455759 in Books Ingramcontent 2014-10-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1599474603202 pagesThe Seven Deadly Virtues 18 Conservative Writers on Why the Virtuous Life Is Funny as Hell | File size: 32.Mb

From Ingramcontent : The Seven Deadly Virtues: 18 Conservative Writers on Why the Virtuous Life is Funny as Hell before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Seven Deadly Virtues: 18 Conservative Writers on Why the Virtuous Life is Funny as Hell:

38 of 39 people found the following review helpful. An Insightful and Humorous Book on the Virtues, Well Worth Reading By George P. Wood It is a vice to judge a book by its cover, but one that I'll indulge in this instance. The book's title and subtitle mislead. Its authors essay sixteen virtues, not seven (and none deadly), and while they do so hilariously, the funniness of the virtuous life is not the point of their essays. That said, *The Seven Deadly Virtues* is an insightful book, humorously written, and well worth reading. The book divides into two sections. The first examines the traditional virtues, seven in number and divisible by two: prudence, justice, courage, and temperance are the cardinal virtues; faith, hope, and charity are the Christian virtues. The second looks into everyday virtues: chastity, simplicity, thrift, honesty, fellowship, forbearance, integrity, curiosity, and perseverance. In the Introduction, Jonathan V. Last defines virtues as "the internal qualities that allow us to be our best selves and enable us to lead complete and fulfilling lives." He warns against "extremism in the pursuit of virtue," saying instead that virtue is "additive." "No single virtue is sufficient in and of itself, and each one, taken on its own is corruptible. Yet each virtue becomes more valuable with the addition of others. And for any single virtue to be brought to its full bloom, it must be surrounded by its sisters." Picking favorites among the individual essays is difficult. How do you choose between P. J. O'Rourke and Christopher Buckley? Rob Long and Matt Labash? Andrew Ferguson and Jonah Goldberg? You don't. You read, laugh, and learn. Instead of picking a favorite, let me highlight Sonny Bunch, a younger, not-as-well-known author whose chapter, "Forbearance: Opting Out of the Politicized Life," seems particularly apt for the politicized times in which we live. The politicized life is "the growing, pernicious trend in American society where politics are injected into every moment of one's existence." For example, if you eat (or don't) at Chick-Fil-A because you love (or hate) Truett Cathy's support of traditional marriage rather than because of its delicious chicken sandwiches (not to mention peach shakes!), then you're leading a politicized life. Unfortunately, the Internet exacerbates the viciousness--in both senses--of politicization. "In real life," Bunch points out, "you forbear those around you because you never know who thinks what, and forbearance makes it easier for the whole neighborhood to get along. There is diversity of thought, in part because no one really cares what the guy who lives next door thinks about marginal tax rates. But in virtual life, everyone in the self-selected group pretty much thinks the same way thing, about everything. And the occasional deviations become opportunities to enforce the communal norms, to show how super [serious] we all are about the righteousness of whichever cause binds the community together." This politicized viciousness makes appearances on the social media of both the left and the right of the political spectrum, as both my Right and Left friends will quickly attest. (It's easier to spot the lack of forbearance in those who differ from you online than in those who agree with you.) Forbearance doesn't mean avoiding politics, of course. (Avoidance isn't possible, even apart from the ubiquity of social media, for the simple reason that politics is how we organize our common life, and you cannot avoid your neighbors.) Bunch writes: "there's nothing wrong with standing up for your beliefs and attempting to persuade those with whom you disagree. But," he goes on, "there's a difference between having polite, rational discussions and declaring those with opposing views to be the enemy and, therefore, worthy of destruction, infamy, and impoverishment." So, "the next time a Two Minutes Hate ramps up," Bunch advises, "step away from your computer and get a cup of coffee. You'll be a better person. And you'll feel better too." Yes, and amen! If what Bunch has written resonates with the better angels of your nature, my guess is that you'll both profit from and enjoy reading *The Seven Deadly Virtues*. Though written by conservatives (but not only for conservatives), the book contains insights that are widely applicable because appropriately wise. 42 of 45 people found the following review helpful. Surprisingly thoughtful and refreshing By Hal C. Elrod Virtues are underrated. Talk about virtue, and people will ask "What this about virtual?" The point of *The Seven Deadly Virtues* (which turns out to be about 16 or so) is to restore the conversation about what makes life meaningful. The book is very entertaining and thought-provoking, and quite a bit different than I expected. For one thing, although it is "18 Conservative Writers", it's not a political book. And although these are hilarious authors in other forums, this is less "ha ha" funny, and more "hmmm" funny. Instead of a light confection, it's a full meal. Well worth the read. 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A humorous take on virtues in present-day America By Kent Price Virtues past and present are discussed in a modern context. Part I covers the cardinal virtues (the ones that you were taught in Sunday school but have totally forgotten) of Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Hope, Charity, and Faith. Part II covers the everyday virtues (the ones that your grandmother told you but you ignored because they are no fun) of Chastity, Simplicity, Thrift, Honesty, Fellowship, Forbearance, Integrity, Curiosity, and Perseverance. A different author writes about each virtue with style and humor, and reveals the foibles of present day American society. I greatly enjoyed the book and recommend it.

An all-star team of eighteen conservative writers offers a hilarious, insightful, sanctimony-free remix of William Bennett's *The Book of Virtues*—without parental controls. *The Seven Deadly Virtues* sits down next to readers at the bar, buys them a drink, and an hour or three later, ushers them into the revival tent without them even realizing it. The book's contributors include Sonny Bunch, Christopher Buckley, David "Iowahawk" Burge, Christopher Caldwell, Andrew Ferguson, Jonah Goldberg, Michael Graham, Mollie Hemingway, Rita Koganzon, Matt Labash, James Lileks, Rob Long, Larry Miller, P. J. O'Rourke, Joe Queenan, Christine Rosen, and Andrew Stiles. Jonathan V. Last, senior writer at the *Weekly Standard*, editor of the collection, is also a contributor. All eighteen essays in this book are

appearing for the first time anywhere. In the book's opening essay, P. J. O'Rourke observes: "Virtue has by no means disappeared. It's as much in public view as ever. But it's been strung up by the heels. Virtue is upside down. Virtue is uncomfortable. Virtue looks ridiculous. All the change and the house keys are falling out of Virtue's pants pockets." Here are the virtues everyone (including the book's contributors) was taught in Sunday school but have totally forgotten about until this very moment. In this sanctimony-free zone: • Joe Queenan observes: "In essence, thrift is a virtue that resembles being very good at Mahjong. You've heard about people who can do it, but you've never actually met any of them." • P. J. O'Rourke notes: "Fortitude is quaint. We praise the greatest generation for having it, but they had aluminum siding, church on Sunday, and jobs that required them to wear neckties or nylons (but never at the same time). We don't want those either." • Christine Rosen writes: "A fellowship grounded in sociality means enjoying the company of those with whom you actually share physical space rather than those with whom you regularly and enthusiastically exchange cat videos." • Rob Long offers his version of modern day justice: if you sleep late on the weekend, you are forced to wait thirty minutes in line at Costco. • Jonah Goldberg offers: "There was a time when this desire-to-do-good-in-all-things was considered the only kind of integrity: 'Angels are better than mortals. They're always certain about what is right because, by definition, they're doing God's will.' Gabriel knew when it was okay to remove a mattress tag and Sandalphon always tipped the correct amount." • Sonny Bunch dissects forbearance, observing that the fictional Two Minutes Hate of George Orwell's 1984 is now actually a reality directed at living, breathing people. Thanks, in part, to the Internet, "Its targets are designated by a spontaneously created mob—one that, due to its hive-mind nature—is virtually impossible to call off." By the time readers have completed *The Seven Deadly Virtues*, they won't even realize that they've just been catechized into an entirely different—and better—moral universe.

"[I]nteresting and thought provoking ... endearing enough to make the reader charitably inclined." —Wall Street Journal (11/05/2014) "*The Seven Deadly Virtues* is 202 readable pages written by a witty group of 18 peculiar moralists, and it deserves similar success. You just know that you are in for a treat when a book on the subject of virtue starts with P.J. O'Rourke and ends with Chris Buckley. In between them, you'll discover the architects of a new conservative cool that shows that is possible to be moral without being moralistic and authoritative without being authoritarian." —The Washington Times (11/05/2014)