

# Castaway Sin

## Seven Righteous Resolutions

January 1, 2023

Today we're gonna sit right back and hear a tale – a tale of a fateful trip!

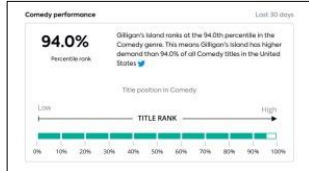


But first: **Which Gilligan's Island castaway do you most relate to?** Some of you may remember back in 2014, I picked out which seven staff members most matched which castaways – and then dressed 'em up for Arktoberfest and used it as our Christmas card. Well, with the holidays behind us, we now look forward to New Year's resolutions. Cuz **we love to make 'em and break 'em!** It isn't that we enjoy setting ourselves up for failure, **the battle is just bigger than we think.** Jesus nailed our problem when He said:

"... the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." – Matthew 26:41 NAS

But He prefaced it with the solution to the problem.

"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into **[whatever]** temptation; **[most tempts you]** the spirit *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." – Matthew 26:41 NAS



And our spirit *hates* that, and *longs to escape* that; to *finally* be *free* from the *grip* of *sin*, that inevitably **takes us further than we want to go, keeps us longer than we want to stay, and costs us more than we want to pay.** Reminds me of a certain "three hour tour". Did you know that Gilligan's Island was in the top 94th percentile in the comedy genre in the US, 94.3% in Germany, and 95.1% in Argentina ... last month?! 55 years after being *canceled*, it's still one of the *world's* most *popular* shows – being shown in 30 languages! Why is that?



One popular theory is that each character, intentional or not, embodies one of the seven classic Christian categories of deadly sins, to which *everyone* is susceptible. Making those seven stranded castaways among the most relatable and memorable characters ever assembled. So which do you most relate to: **anger, greed, lust, envy, sloth, pride, or gluttony.** Those classic categories are based on grouping the sins in Proverbs according to the "seven [transgressions that] are an abomination to [God]". (Prov 6:16)

So let's start with: anger. Poor Skipper could be a bit cantankerous, embodying jovial jolliness ... and a very short fuse. And when he wasn't whacking Gilligan over the head with his hat, he was turning to the *camera*, and *us*, with an expression of utter exasperation.

Funny on TV. Real life, not so much. **Anger is so often about attitude.**

One year, my car died while I was Christmas shopping in Bellingham. I limped it to a nearby repair shop. And I was so mad at the car – and at myself for owning it – that I told ‘em to just do whatever it took to fix it. And I walked back to Bellis Fair. And I figured they’d rip me off and that’d be my punishment. But I cooled off. And found some good gifts. And when a store clerk asked how my day was going, I chose to cheerfully say, “Great.” My *gift* to her. And I went back to my car. Battery post just needed cleaning. No charge. They’d catch me next time. I’m not saying this is a formula. But I’m not so sure our Father would’ve allowed it if I had turned to the camera with utter exasperation and took it out on the sales clerk. Because:

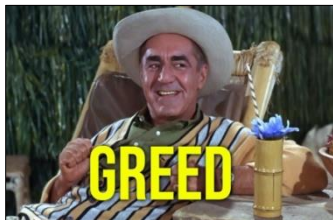
*You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. – Psalm 86:15 NIV*



[Therefore] One who is *slow to anger* has great *understanding*; but one who is *quick-tempered* exalts *foolishness*. – Proverbs 14:29 NAS



A great way to extinguish exasperation is to behave yourself. Because **good feelings follow right behavior**. Which means, **we don't feel our way to good behavior**. Just the opposite: **we behave our way to good feelings**. So maybe **resolve to keep your hat on, the next time you feel like turning to the camera**. Did you know Gilligan didn't wear a sailor's hat? Too *stiff*. He wore a tennis hat. And he had replicas made before he passed away. And I bought one from his widow.



Well, next is: Greed. Poor Mr. Howell took a trunk of money on a three-hour tour. Greed isn't so much about the **love of possessions**, as it is the **love of possessing**. There's a difference. You see, I love a lot of my possessions. But **I possess them, they don't possess me**. Because, money *isn't* the *root of evil* ... but the *love* of it *sure* is.

The love of money is a root of *all sorts of evil*, and some by *longing* for it have wandered away from the *faith* – 1 Timothy 6:10 NAS

Jesus said to [the rich young ruler], “If you want to be *perfect*, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But ... [the man] went away *sorrowful*, for he had *great* possessions. – Matthew 19:21-22 NKJ

Jesus didn't tell him to be *poor* – he's still a ruler, capable of amassing wealth. He didn't say to give up his *business sense* or *skillset*, but to *do* what it'd *take* to *reset* his misplaced *priorities*, to *follow* with *all* his *heart*. So maybe **resolve to release any possessions possessing you**. The simplest way to start is to simply stop buying things you don't really need, with money you don't really have, to impress people you don't really like. Or you might end up like poor Mr. Howl. Not *that* Mr. Howell.

Come now, you *rich*, *weep* and *howl* for the miseries that are coming upon you. [That Mr. Howl] Your riches have rotted ... and their corrosion will be evidence against you [Why? Cuz] ... You have laid up [the wrong] treasure in the last days. – James 5:1-3 ESV

By the way, that bamboo tumbler was manufactured in 1961 by Paul Marshal Products.



And then there's lust. And then there's Ginger, the poor movie star wanna be. **The embodiment of desire minus love.** Now, there are different *types of lust*. **Guys lusted for her; while she lusted for fame.** You may not have been attracted to her at all – I wasn't – but, gotta admit, girl knew how to wear a curtain!

There's a godly balance with natural desires: **don't deny 'em, just don't allow 'em to take control.** Which takes *work*. Cuz we can't just *decide* not to *lust*, *whatever* the object of our desire. We gotta *grow* out of it. Cuz **we can't fight emotions with emotions.** That spins us in cycles. **We gotta fight an emotion with a conviction.** And *the most meaningful and powerful* is to *become* like Jesus.

"As I have loved you, so you *must* love one another. By *this* all men will know that you are My disciples, *if you love* one another." – John 13:34-35 NIV

Be *imitators* of God, therefore, as *dearly loved* children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a *fragrant offering* – Ephesians 5:1-2 NIV

Ever hear the saying or the song, or see the movie: "Love Stinks"? *Not true.* Love is "fragrant". *Lust* stinks. Because **love desires to give**, but **lust desires to get**. That's how you tell 'em *apart*. So maybe **resolve to purposefully periodically put others ahead of yourself.** It might seem strange, but we ultimately defeat all forms of lust by doing things like letting a stranger go ahead of us in the check-out line, in honor of their intrinsic value as our Father's creation.



But then comes envy. Poor Mary Ann just couldn't stack up to the competition. Now, *nobody* wanted her to, but that's *beside* the point. **Envy comes from comparison** and **comparison comes from within.** It's more than mere jealousy. **It's resentment with discontentment.** It's a sense of getting gypped by God. What He gave you. What He's giving you. *Riches* may rot on the outside "... but *envy* rots the *bones*." (Prov 14:30) So maybe **resolve to appreciate the wealth of small things God has given you.** Their radio is a Packard Bell AR-851 with a 1950s drawer pull and a mid-century after-market, Snyder car fin antenna. I made a replica. And nobody *inside* the *fan-base* knew what that *transmitter* was. And nobody *outside* it *cared*. But they do *now* ... *know*, not *care*. It's a Hallicrafters S-40A Receiver.

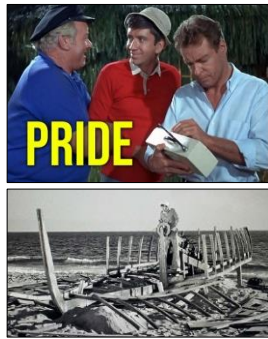


Next up is sloth. Not necessarily *laziness*; cuz **we can be busy with all the wrong things while idle in the areas that matter most.** Poor Mrs. Howell. So used to being served, she missed out on life's *truest joy*. Cuz **true greatness isn't measured by how many serve you, but by how many you serve.**

"For even the Son of Man did not come to *be* served, but to *serve*" – Mark 10:45 NIV

We say things like: "That dress is to die for." Really? You'd *die* for a *dress*? A *boat*? *Chocolate*? How about your *family*? Want to *know* your *created purpose*? **Make a list of what you'd actually be willing to die for.** And then, maybe **resolve to live for those things** – they're your greatest reason for living, your purest source of fulfillment, and what'll matter most when *your show's canceled*. **If you want to find life worth living, find something worth dying for.**

BTW: those coconut mugs are from the “Islander” tiki bar in Stockton CA, which closed in 1982.

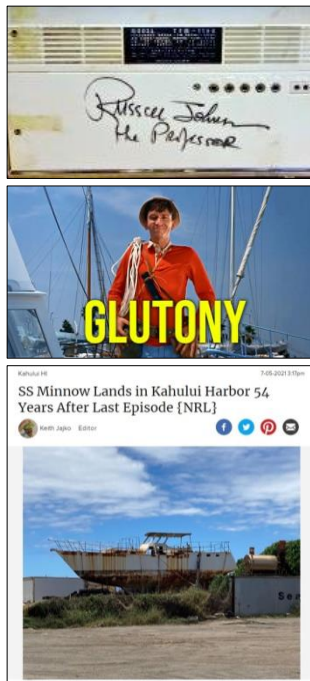


Then comes crafty pride. Which is nothing more than **faith in yourself**. And, the poor professor *truly was* the island’s *know-it-all*. So you can hardly blame him for having a high opinion of himself. He made a satellite receiver out of coconut shells! And an electrical generator ... out of coconut shells! And a weather indicator, a Geiger counter, a lie detector, and a telegraph ... out of coconut shells. He just couldn’t repair that boat. Remember when he tried making glue to repair it? Well, just as ...

Pride goes before destruction ... – Proverbs 16:18 NAS

So *too* that *glue*. **Sometimes we need to reflect on our many limitations and what all we *can’t* do.**

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, [cuz EGO might as well stand for: **Edging God Out**] but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, [neither too *highly nor lowly*, but] in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. – Romans 12:3 NIV



So, let’s **resolve to think of ourselves in line with what our Father thinks of us**. You know, long before Ebay or the internet, I had to settle for the closest radio I could find. But Ken Ekle wired it so the Marine Band plays the theme song. And I tracked down Russel Johnson, and asked him if he AND the professor would kindly sign it. Which they did.

Which leaves gluttony ... and *Gilligan*. *Seriously?* He’s as skinny as Mrs. Howell! But then, gluttony isn’t a body type. **It has to do with excessiveness and impulsiveness that causes self-harm**. We still use the term **“glutton for punishment”** to describe someone who keeps making the same mistakes or poor choices to their own peril – never seeming to learn or grow or mature. And which little buddy blew every chance to escape, by the end of pretty much every episode? Good ol’ *Gluttigan!*

So maybe **resolve to practice a little moderation where it’s most needed**, because **everyone’s a glutton for punishment, up to the point of repentance**. Want to know what’s weird? In 2021, one of the *abandoned, lost, original*, SS Minnows washed up on shore in Maui!

The one desire *all seven castaways* shared was to get back to *harbor* and *home*. But **harboring these sins kept them isolated on an island**, despite the *opportunities* their creators sent their way.

[So] *Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed* – Ezekiel 18:31 ESV

By *rejecting* this, some have made a *shipwreck* of their *faith* – 1 Timothy 1:19 ESV

Let’s don’t make *that* mistake. What do you say we *stop* any self-imposed isolation, get off *our* island, and *go home!* Which means **resolving to actually change on the inside**. After all, every man *is* an island I’m told. And **it doesn’t matter what we learn in here, till we act on it out there**.

---

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.