



HEALTH NOTES



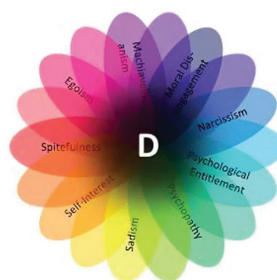
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Adventist Medical
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AMEN's mission is to motivate, train, and equip Seventh-day Adventist healthcare professionals to team with pastors and members, uniting the church to restore Christ's ministry of healing to the world, hastening His return.

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The Dark, Devilish, D-Factor of Mind and Character



Sin and the Devil don't have a place in the field of psychology. But it is surprising how accurately sinful behaviors and devil possession are described in psychological terms.

Three psychologists have described several personality traits that have a common denominator which they describe as the "dark core" of personality or the "D-factor" of the mind.¹

These bad traits include the following:

1. **Egoism:** an excessive preoccupation with one's own advantage at the expense of others.
2. **Machiavellianism:** a manipulative, callous attitude and a belief that the ends justify the means.
3. **Moral disengagement:** thinking that allows behaving unethically without feeling distress.
4. **Narcissism:** excessive self-absorption, a sense of superiority, and an extreme need for attention from others.
5. **Psychopathy:** lack of empathy and self-control combined with impulsive behavior.
6. **Sadism:** a desire to inflict mental or physical harm on others for one's own pleasure.
7. **Self-interest:** a desire to advance and highlight one's own social and financial status.
8. **Spitefulness:** destructiveness and willingness to cause harm to others, even if one harms oneself in the process.
9. **Psychological entitlement:** a recurring belief that one is better than others and deserves better treatment.

People with these traits have many excuses for their behaviors and experience **no guilt, shame, or regret** for their words or actions.

Each of these traits is distinct and different, but at the core there is a common denominator-- **placing one's own goals and interests over those of others**, even to the extent of taking pleasure in hurting others. How accurate of science to finally recognize and lump together these evil traits.

These traits are the opposite of the fruits of the Spirit and can be called the fruits of the Devil. The Bible has several lists that describe the same dark core. The D-factor is truly the **Devil** factor.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV) These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a **proud** look, a **lying** tongue, hands that **shed innocent blood**, a heart that **devises wicked plans**,



feet that are swift in **running to evil**, a **false witness** who speaks lies, and one who **sows discord** among brethren.

Romans 1:28-32 (NKJV) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a **debased mind**, (Paul's term for "D-factor:") to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Mrs. White simply says: "If Christ dwells in the heart, the precious fruits of His Spirit will, as a natural result, be manifested in the life. **If Satan controls the mind, evil traits will as surely be apparent.**" *Review & Herald, September 6, 1881*

¹ M Moshagen, BE Hilbig, I Zettler, "The Dark Core of Personality," *Psychological Review*, October 2018, Vol 125, Issue 5, Pages 656-688.

