

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

(Galatians 5:19-21)

The Works of the flesh are the attitudes/behaviors of those who are unregenerate. (If we allow the Spirit of God to rule and reign in our lives, these attitudes/behavior can be brought under subjection and the fruit of the Spirit will begin to manifest. More importantly, the bible states that, ***“they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*** (Galatians 5:22)

ADULTERY:

Willful sexual intercourse with someone other than one's husband or wife.

Jesus expanded the meaning of adultery to include the cultivation of lust: “Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery in his heart. (Matthew 5:8)

FORNICATION:

Sexual relationships outside the bonds of marriage. The technical distinction between fornication and adultery is that adultery involves married persons while fornication involves those that are unmarried.

Although fornication is acceptable in today's society and is considered “okay,” God considers it a sin. Of the seven lists of sins found in the writings of the Apostle Paul, the word fornication is found in five of them and is first on the list each time. (I Corinthians 5:11, Colossians 3:5).

In the book of Revelation, fornication is symbolic of how idolatry and pagan religion defiles true worship of God. (Revelation 14:8, 17:4).

UNCLEANNES:

Whatever is opposite of purity, including sodomy, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality and all other forms of sexual perversion.

In the gospels, the word unclean describes those who are possessed by undesirable or even demonic spirits. Jesus exercised command over these unclean spirits (Luke 4:36) and effectively rebuked them (Luke 9:42). The disciples were also given power over unclean spirits (Mark 6:7; Acts 5:16). Jesus often cast out unclean spirits (Mark 1:23, 26, 27; 5:2)

The word defilement described a sinful and unfit condition (Isaiah 6:5). Because of sin “we are all like an unclean thing” (Isaiah 64:6). The New Testament lists uncleanness or moral

defilement along with fornication and other sins, such as covetousness, as works of the flesh. Believers are not called to uncleanness, but they are to live in holiness (I Thessalonians 4:7). They are not to yield their members to uncleanness but to righteousness and holiness (Romans 6:19)

LASCIVIOUSNESS:

Undisciplined and unrestrained behavior, especially a flagrant disregard of sexual restraints. (Mark 7:22; II Corinthians 12:21).

The word lascivious is taken from the Greek word licentiousness which means, “outrageous conduct,” showing that licentious behavior goes beyond sin to include a disregard for what is right.

IDOLATRY:

The worship of something created as opposed to the worship of the creator himself.

Idolatry can take many forms. In the Old Testament, idolatry was prominent and typically involved bowing down to idols.

In the New Testament however the term idolatry became not the actual bowing down before a statute but the replacement of God in the mind of the worshipper.

While we may not make or bow down before a statute, we must be constantly on guard that we let nothing come between us and God. As soon as anything does, that “thing” is an idol.

In addition to material objects such as houses, land, and cars, etc., idols can be people, popular heroes, or those whom we love. Objects of worship can even include things like fame, reputation, hobbies, pride and deeds done in the name of the Lord. Idolatry is a dangerous and deceitful sin.

WITCHCRAFT:

The practice of dealing with evil spirits, magic incantations and casting spells and charms upon one by means of drugs and/or potions of various kinds. Witchcraft or divination was a means for extracting information or guidance from a pagan god. Examples of this are seen in Numbers 22:7; 23:23, Joshua 13:22.

It is interesting to note that the Bible refers the sin of rebellion like unto the sin of witchcraft. (I Samuel 15:23).

HATRED:

Strong dislike, disregard, or even indifference toward someone or something.

As Christians, the only hatred that we should be guilty of, is to hate what God himself hates with an absolute hatred-and that is SIN. (Deuteronomy 12:31)

VARIANCE:

Dissension, quarrellings and disputes. (People who have a spirit of variance usually thrive on confusion and are extremely argumentative).

EMULATION:

Eager or ambitious to equal or surpass another. This is prompted or characterized by a spirit of rivalry.

WRATH:

Violent, resentful anger. An action motivated by anger.

The bible declares that all people are, *“by nature the children of wrath”* (Ephesians 2:3) and that *“the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”* (Romans 1:18).

Since Christians have been “justified” by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” The magnitude of God’s love is manifested in the cross, where God’s only son experienced wrath on our behalf.

STRIFE:

Heated, often violent dissension; bitter conflict. A struggle, fight or quarrel. Contention or competition between rivals.

SEDITION:

Conduct or language inciting rebellion against authority of a state or other lawful government. (Ezra 4:15)

HERESY:

False doctrine, or teaching which denies any one of the foundational beliefs of the church, such as the Lordship or deity of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul makes it clear in his writings in the New Testament that heretical teachings were a problem among church leaders during that time.

ENVYINGS:

A feeling of resentment and jealousy toward another person because of his/her possessions or good qualities.

MURDERS:

The unlawful killing of one person by another, especially with premeditated malice.

In the New Testament, Jesus deepened the Old Testament teaching about murder by giving it a spiritual dimension that whoever harbors anger and hatred against his brother is in danger of God's judgment. (Matthew 5:21).

Murder begins in one's heart, one's thoughts and meditations and proceeds out of the heart. (Matthew 15:19, Mark 7:21).

DRUNKENNESS:

A drugged or deranged condition which results from drinking intoxicating beverages. (I Corinthians 5:11, 6:10, Ephesians 5:18). Drunkenness regularly appears in the lists of vices in the New Testament. (Luke 21:34, Romans 13:13, Galatians 5:21).

Common symptoms associated with drunkenness and mentioned in the Bible include the drunkard and his songs (Psalm 69:12), his reeling and staggering (Job 12:25, Jeremiah 23:9), his vomiting (Isaiah 19:14, Jeremiah 25:27, 48:26) and his drugged condition (Joel 1:5)

REVELLINGS:

Boisterous merrymaking or noisy partying. This word means any form of indulgence, usually in connection with the worship of pagan gods. (Romans 13:13, I Peter 4:3), carousing, orgies.

*Please note that there is nothing wrong with having wholesome parties and festivities, however, some of the parties of today include immoral activities such as music which degrades and brings no glory to God, orgies or other immoral/illicit sexual activities, drugs, alcohol, etc. These parties are not conducive to Christianity.

