

Galatians 5:19-21

<p>NASB GAL 5:19 Now the deeds [acts, works] of the flesh are evident [obvious, unmistakable, well-known], which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, GAL 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, GAL 5:21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things [sins] like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you [when I was present with you] that those who practice such things shall not inherit the [heavenly] kingdom of God.</p>	<p>NIV GAL 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; GAL 5:20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions GAL 5:21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.</p>
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- Paul is enforcing the exhortation of verse 13.

GAL 5:13 For you were called to freedom (liberty), brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

- “Freedom” (liberty) did not mean they were free to sin and do as they pleased.
- Some might argue it does not make any difference what the flesh does, but this erroneous idea certainly did not come from the Holy Scriptures.
- Some brag about their evil deeds at times, but try to defend them as ok or innocent when they are questioned are criticized for them.
- Paul contends the “deeds of the flesh are evident.” They are obvious, unmistakable, well-known.
- Some of these sins are listed in Romans 1:18-31.
- This is not an exhaustive list of the “works of the flesh,” but is very illustrative of such sins.

1. Works of the flesh

- a. “fornication” comes from the Greek “porneia” denoting immorality in general.

- 1) NRSV, ASV and RSV translate “immorality.”

- 2) KJV has “adultery,” but “adultery” [moicheia] is not in best Greek manuscripts.

- 3) “fornication” includes “adultery, homosexuality, prostitution, bestiality, incest (1 Cor. 5:1).

2. “impurity” is from Greek “akatharsia” means “sensual impurity, uncleanness, lewdness, moral impurity.”

- a. The word condemns “immorality, sexual uncleanness, sodomy, sexual vices of all kinds.

- b. There is not a clear distinction between it and the previous word “fornication.”
3. The word “suality” [aselgeia] condemns “indecent conduct, sexual excesses, speaks of one who knows no restraints.
 - a. NIV has “debauchery.”
 - b. NRSV, ASV, KJV and RSV have “lasciviousness.”
 4. “Idolatry” [eidoolatreia] is rendered “idolatry” by all major translations.
 - a. God alone is to be worshiped.
 - b. Idolatry is anything that replaces God.
 - c. Even Christians are warned against it. (1 Jn. 5:21).
 5. “Sorcery” is from “pharmakeia” and is rendered “withcraft” by the NIV and KJV.
 - a. The word includes “witchcraft, magic enchantment, incantation, employment of drugs for any evil reason”
 - b. See Rev. 9:21 and enchantments of the Egyptians. (Exod. 7:11,22, LXX).
 6. “Enmities” [plural of echthros] condemns “feeling of hatred toward God or man, discord, feud.”
 - a. NRSV and ASV has “enmities.”
 - b. NIV and KJV has “hatred.”
 7. “Strife” [eris] refers to “contentious disposition, fighting, discord.”
 - a. It can be caused by opinions, selfish ambition, traditions.
 - b. The traditions and doctrines of men also lead to strife.
 8. “Jealousy” [zelos] is translated as such by most major translations.
 - a. KJV has “emulations.”
 - b. The original word has the idea of what we call “jealousy” or “envy.”
 9. “Outbursts of anger” denotes “fits of rages, passionate outbursts of anger.”
 - a. Such outbursts are not to be rationalize as ok, but they are sin.
 - b. The one who pleases God seeks to control temper, anger.
 10. “Disputes” [pl. of eritheia] meaning “disputes. selfish ambition, quarrels, strife, selfishness.”
 - a. NIV has “selfish ambition” and NRSV has “quarrels.”

- b. ASV has “factions” and KJV has “strife.”
11. “Dissensions” [dichostasia] denotes “divisions, dissensions, divisions.”
 - a. Christians are to be peacemakers - not troublemakers.
 - b. God abhors this sin of “dissensions.” (Prov. 6:16-19).
 12. “Factions” [haireisis] is translated “factions by the NIV and NRSV.
 - a. RSV has “party spirit” and KJV has “heresies.”
 - b. See Acts 5:17; 15:5; 26:5; 24:14. It refers to a body of men separating themselves from others and following their own tenets.
 13. “Envyings” [pl. of phthonos] denotes “ill will, envy.”
 - a. There is a healthy emulation, but what Paul discussed here is not healthy. See Mk. 15:10.
 - b. Envy leads to all kinds of evil deeds.
 14. “Drunkenness” [methai] is rendered “drunkenness” by virtually all major translations.
 - a. “Drunkenness” leads to all kinds of evil.
 - b. One begins with a few drinks and then ends by being controlled by the alcohol.
 - c. “Drunkenness” begins when one even begins to lose self-control and his/her judgment begins to be impaired.
 15. “Carousing” [pl of komos] denotes “revellings, lascivious feasting.”
 - a. NIV has “orgies.”
 - b. RSV and NRSV has “carousing.”
 - c. This sin is associated with drinking parties. (Rom. 13:13; 1 Pet. 4:3).

Observations

1. Moral purity is a must with God. (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 1:27; 4:4; 1 Pet. 1:16).
 - a. We stress doctrinal purity and rightly so.
 - b. We need a greater stress on moral purity.
2. This is not an exhaustive list of the works of the flesh, but is illustrative. (Gal. 5:21; Rom. 1:18-31; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 6:9-11; Eph. 5:3-8, 11-12; Rev. 21:8; Prov. 6:16-19; Col. 3:8-11; 1 Tim. 1:8-11).
 - a. Lying, blasphemy, murder, rape, brutality, child abandonment, deceit, haters of God, pride, disobedience to parents are just a few of the sins not named in Galatians 5.

- b. No one scripture contains them all.
 - c. There are more than “The Seven Deadly Sins.”
 - Pride, avarice, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth.
 - All of the sins listed in Galatians 5 and elsewhere are deadly.
3. These descriptive words **condemn in principle** many actions not specifically named.
- a. Dancing
 - b. Immodesty
 - c. Drugs
 - d. Pornography
4. We are not to practice these sins. (Eph. 5:6; 1 Jno. 1:7; 3:6).
5. We are to live transformed lives. (Rom. 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 6:17).
6. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20).
7. We must guard our thoughts and feed on good, wholesome things. (Phil. 4:8; Prov. 4:23).

PHI 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.	PRO 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.
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8. We must submit to the Holy Spirit and let His word dwell in our hearts. (Gal. 5:16; Col. 3:16).

GAL 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.	COL 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
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9. We must draw near to God. (Jas. 4:7, 8).
10. We must keep good company. (1 Cor. 15:33; Psa. 1:1).
11. Those who practice these things will have no part in the heavenly kingdom.
- a. Though the new birth we become a part of God’s kingdom (the church). (Jno. 3:5; Tit. 3:5).

JOH 3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

TIT 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

b. The word kingdom is also used in the sense of heaven - the heavenly kingdom. (1 Cor. 15:50; Eph. 5:5).

1CO 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit **the kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

EPH 5:5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in **the kingdom of Christ and God**.

See Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:28; Rev. 1:7; Acts 8:12; 1 Cor. 15:24-28.

c. When Christ comes again, He will deliver the kingdom to the Father. (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

10. Gentile churches were particularly subject to these sins.

a. Most had served idols, and had lived with little, if any, moral codes.

b. Most had lived in darkness and lived without restraints. (Eph. 5:8).

11. But who is not in danger of these sins?

a. All of us are mortal and can be tempted.

b. We may resist some sins, but be overcome by others.

c. We must be on the alert against Satan, and resist him. (1 Pet. 5:8; Jas. 4:7,8; 2 Cor. 11:13-15).

Notes:

1. "prasso" (5:21) is present tense in the Greek and denotes habitual practice.

2. The habit of these sins is proof that one is unfaithful in the kingdom and will not inherit the heavenly kingdom.

a. The existence of these sins does not mean one was never converted.

b. Christians who do not watch against the fiery darts of the evil can fall into these transgressions. (Eph. 6:12)

c. Hopefully those who have fallen, like the prodigal son, will return to the Father. (Lk. 15:11-31).

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