

## THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

Galatians 5:19-21

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lasciviousness are linked together for the first group, consisting of offences against chastity — sins which the Church has to challenge (confront) in all ages and in all countries.

1. Adultery = Sexual relations of a married person with someone other than their spouse (Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18; Mat. 5:31,32)
2. Fornication = All immoral sexual conduct and intercourse; taking pleasure in pornographic pictures, films, or writings (Mat. 5:32; 19:9; Acts 15:20,29; 21:25; I Cor. 5:1)
3. Uncleanness = Sexual sins, evil deeds, and vices (habits), including evil thoughts and desires of the heart (Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5)
4. Lasciviousness = Sensuality, following one's passions and desires to the point of having no shame or public decency (II Cor. 12:21)

Idolatry and witchcraft form the second group — sins of hostility towards Christianity; towards God.

5. Idolatry = Worship of spirits, persons, graven images, or self; also trust in any person, institution, or thing as having equal or greater authority than God and His Word (Col. 3:5)
6. Witchcraft = Sorcery, spiritism (encouraging activity of demons), black magic, worship of demons, use of drugs to produce “spiritual” experiences (Ex. 7:11,22; 8:18; Rev. 9:21; 18:23)

Hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, and murders, make up the third group which is bound together by the common characteristics of wickedness. In Galatia, as well as Corinth, the flesh displayed it's malice in "jealousy, strife, and divisions."

7. Hatred = Intense, hostile intentions and acts, extreme dislike or enmity; jealousies
8. Variance = Quarreling, antagonism, a struggle for superiority (control) (Rom. 1:29; I Cor. 1:11; 3:3)
9. Emulations = Resentfulness, envy of another's success (Rom. 13:13; I Cor. 3:3)
10. Wrath = Explosive anger or rage which flares into violent words and deeds (Col. 3:8)
11. Strife = Selfish ambition (desires) and seeking power; conflicts between people (II Cor. 12:20; Phil. 1:16-17)
12. Seditions = Introducing divisive (conflict-ridden; division causing) teachings not supported by the Word of God (Rom. 16:17)
13. Heresies = Division within the congregation into selfish separate groups or cliques which destroy the unity of the Church (I Cor. 11:19)
14. Envyings = Resentful dislike of another person who has something that one desires; rivalry; competition
15. Murders = Killing a person unlawfully and with malice

Drunkenness and revellings, and such the like (those works which are like these), make up the fourth group which represents the sins of excess.

16. Drunkenness = Impairing of one's mental or physical control by alcoholic drink
17. Revellings = Excessive feasting, revelry (carousing), a party spirit involving alcohol, drugs, sex, or the like

Paul's final comment on the works of the flesh is stern and forceful: any "so-called" Christians who engage in these types of activities shut themselves out of the kingdom of God—They do not possess eternal salvation (Gal. 5:21; I Cor. 6:9—Some in Corinth were deceived into believing that if they broke fellowship with Christ, denied Him, and lived in immorality and injustice to others, their salvation and inheritance in the kingdom of God were still secure. However, Paul declares that spiritual death is the inevitable consequence of habitual sinning, even for the Christian [see Rom. 8:13]. No one can live for immoral gratification and inherit the kingdom of God [see Rom. 6:16; Jas. 1:15; I John 2:4]. The apostle Paul repeats this fundamental teaching often [see Gal. 5:21; Eph 5:5,6]).