

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH  
(Gal 5:19-21)

Intro:

Paul tells the Galatians that they are not longer under the law of Moses. This, however, did not give them the right to begin living in sin or in a lawless condition. In chapter 5 Paul lists some of the sins they were to avoid. The list is not exhaustive but is a key to Christian living in the Spirit. They are broad categories and should give us some food for thought.

- I. Sins of Sexual Misconduct.
  - A. Adultery - violation of the marriage vows. Illicit sexual activity. Especially between two married but not to each other. Note Jesus words in Mt 5:27-28.
  - B. Fornication - unlawful sexual acts of any kind. Especially between two unmarried individuals. Broad category may include adultery, petting, lustful looking or desires. Impure sexual activity in general. Broad category.
  - C. Uncleanness - impurity. self abuse. May include sexual perversion such as bestiality and sodomy. May also include homosexuality. May also generally refer to not living a moral and pure, upright life. Broad category.
  - D. Lasciviousness - wantonness, lustful actions or any kind of unchastity. May include lascivious eyes and desires. Indecent body movements such as dancing, sexual come ons or other actions that incite lust in others.
  
- II. Sins Against God's Sovereignty and Supreme Power.
  - A. Idolatry - worship of idols, images, money, power, family or anything that comes between us and God. Anything that causes us to put God second is an idol.
  - B. Witchcraft - use of magic, divination, spirit guides, mediums, etc. Christians should stay away from all such activity. The devil is real and his power is real. Crystal balls, horoscopes, ouija boards, astrology. The word used here also may include the drug world and illicit substance abuse.
  
- III. Sins Against our Fellow Man.
  - A. Hatred - lack of good will. Anger toward others.
  - B. Variance - discord. Keeping things stirred up. Rom 13:13
  - C. Emulations - evil thoughts toward others. Being jealous of others.
  - D. Wrath - fits of rage. Not controlling ourselves, words, actions.
  - E. Strive - selfish ambition and interest. Having to have it our way.
  - F. Seditions - cliques or divisions. Networking to exclude others.
  - G. Heresies - factions. Teaching false doctrine. Spreading falsehood.
  - H. Envyings - envy or ill will cause by party feuds. Holding ill will.
  - I. Murder - taking another human life. Jesus says hate is murder.
  
- IV. Sins of Immorality.
  - A. Drunkenness - abuse of alcohol. Bible does not condone consumption.
  - B. Revellings - orgies. Loud parties. May include concerts, dances.
  
- V. And the Such Like. (anything that is related)
  - A. God doesn't have to specifically condemn a thing for it to be sin.