

## The Works of The Flesh

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

Intro:

- A. The child of God has two natures.
    - 1. "that which is born of the flesh is flesh".
    - 2. "that which is born of the spirit is spirit".
  - B. These two natures are contradictory.
    - 1. The flesh seeks after the things of the flesh. **Romans 8:7** "...it is not subject to the law of God **neither indeed can be.**"
    - 2. The spirit minds the things of the spirit. **Romans 8:5** "...they that are of the Spirit (do mind) the things of the Spirit."
  - C. Each of these natures bears fruit after its kind.
    - 1. The flesh bears "flesh fruit".
    - 2. The Spirit bears "Spirit fruit".
    - 3. **Galatians 6:7-8.**
- I. The Works Of The Flesh.
- A. **"Now the works of the flesh are manifest,"**
    - 1. "Works" = εργον = "the result of labor".
    - 2. "Manifest" = φανερος = "apparent", "conspicuous".
  - B. **"Which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness..."**
    - 1. "Adultery" = πορνεια = illicit sexual intercourse in a general sense, both outside and within the bounds of marriage. Sexual activity contrary to God's will and includes the word "fornication".
    - 2. "Uncleanness" = ακαθαρσια = impurity in general, whether sexual, physical, filth, impure motives.
    - 3. "Lasciviousness" = ασελγεια = excess, unbridled lust, outrageous conduct.
  - C. **"...idolatry, witchcraft, hatred..."**
    - 1. ειδωλολατρια = "worship of false gods"
    - 2. "Witchcraft" = φαρμακεια = the preparing of using of medicine, in a bad sense, using drugs to cast spells, or bring people under one's power. this is the only time it is used in the N.T. other than by John in Revelation 21:8, 22:15, 18:23.
    - 3. "Hatred" = εχθραι = "enmity", exactly opposite of love, hating another as the Jews did the Gentiles.

- D. "...Variance, emulations, wrath..."
1. Vs. 26 "Variance" = ερις = "strife, quarrel, rivalry..."
  2. John 6:63 "Emulation" = ζηλος = zeal, in a bad sense it is jealousy, this is fleshly zeal, not spiritual zeal. This is the spirit that drives competition.

MINUTES

Of The Proceedings Of The  
THIRTY NINTH ANNUAL SESSION

of

SPRING RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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It works well but it feeds on and creates rivalry.

3. "Wrath" = θυμοι = "intense passion that comes from the mind and manifests itself in out-bursts, swelling of rage. It is used to describe God's unchanging wrath against sin. Rev 14:10,19, Eph 4:26 Be angry (οργη, sometimes translated wrath) and sin not." Jesus and the money changers.

E. **"...strife, seditions, heresies..."**

1. "Strife" = εριθεια = "labor for wages", hence seeking to gain advantage by politicking, or the use of intrigue, in secular literature using trickery to gain a political office, the end justifies the means.
2. "Seditions" = διχοστασια = "a standing apart, dissension, dividing apart".
3. "Heresies" = αιρεσις = a taking, making a choice, a chosen plan or way, a preference. Choosing one's own way rather than God's. Preferring the plans of men and not God's plan".

F. **Vs. 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness..."**

1. "Envyings" = φθονοι = Jealousy of another's success, depreciation of his worth, The Jews had delivered Jesus to Pilate because of "envy".
2. "Drunkenness" = μεθη = "strong drink", "the state of being intoxicated".

G. **"...revellings, and such like..."**

1. "Revellings" = κωμος = "a feasting, a carousing or merrymaking that often spilled into the street."
2. "and such like" = "and things like these".

II. **The Consequences Of Sowing To Flesh.**

A. **Vs. 21b "...of the which I tell you before."**

1. "Tell" = προλεγω = "to say before hand".
2. Paul was warning them before they had done the deed, Before the seed was sown.
3. They could not plead ignorance.

B. **"...as I have told you in times past."**

1. "Told" = προειπον = "Before + to utter definite words, to make entirely clear.

2. Paul had made the same speech prior to this letter.
- C. "...that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."
1. "Do" =  $\pi\rho\alpha\sigma\sigma\omega$  = "to practice", "to do repeatedly continually, habitually". This is not speaking to those who may have temporarily lapsed into some works of the flesh.
  2. "Such things" =  $\tau\alpha\tau\omicron\iota\alpha\upsilon\tau\alpha$  = "things of the nature and quality just mentioned."
  3. "Inherit" =  $\kappa\lambda\eta\rho\omicron\nu\omicron\mu\epsilon\omega$  = "to be a receiver of a portion", "to receive a share of an inheritance." Here the future tense is used and may be translated, "may not receive".

### III. The Kingdom And One's Inheritance.

- A. The kingdom is the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ.
  1. It is the object of prayer. **Matt 6:9-10**
  2. It is the time of rewards. **Matt 19:27-30**
- B. The Bible teaches the rewarding of the faithful.
  1. The parables teach rewards. **Matt 25:14-30**
  2. Paul taught rewards. **I Cor. 3:10-15**
  3. Paul taught judgment. **II cor 5:10-11, Romans 14:12**
  4. Peter taught this. **II Peter 1:4-11**