

Seventeen Works of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19) Dake's Commentary

1. Adultery. Greek: moicheia (NT:3430), unlawful sexual relations between men and women, single or married (Matt 15:19; Mark 7:21; John 8:3; Gal 5:19). Note the related Greek: verbs, moichao (NT:3429) (Matt 5:32, notes; 19:9; Mark 10:11-12), and moicheuo (NT:3431) (Matt 5:27-28; 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 16:18; 18:20; John 8:4; Rom 2:22; 13:9; James 2:11; Rev 2:22).
2. Fornication. Greek: porneia (NT:4202), same as adultery above besides all manner of other unlawful relations (notes, Matt 5:32).
3. Uncleaness. Greek: akatharsia (NT:167), whatever is opposite of purity; including sodomy, homosexuality, lesbianism, pederasty, bestiality, and all other forms of sexual perversion (Gal 5:19; Matt 23:27; Rom 1:21-32; 6:19; 2 Cor 12:21; Eph 4:19; 5:3; Col 3:5; 1 Thess 2:3; 4:7; 2 Peter 2; Jude).
4. Lasciviousness. Greek: aselgeia (NT:766), licentiousness, lustfulness, unchastity, and lewdness. Translated "lasciviousness" (Mark 7:22; 2 Cor 12:21; Gal 5:19; Eph 4:19; 1 Peter 4:3; Jude 4); "wantonness" (Rom 13:13; 2 Peter 2:18); and "filthy" (2 Peter 2:7). Lasciviousness is the promoting or partaking of that which tends to produce lewd emotions, anything tending to foster sex sin and lust. That is why many worldly pleasures have to be avoided by Christians — so that lasciviousness may not be committed.
5. Idolatry. Greek: eidololatreia (NT:1495), image-worship (1 Cor 10:14; Gal 5:20; Col 3:5; 1 Peter 4:3). Idolatry includes anything on which affections are passionately set; extravagant admiration of the heart (Eph 5:5; Col 3:5).
6. Witchcraft. Greek: pharmakeia (NT:5331), sorcery, practice of dealing with evil spirits; magical incantations and casting spells and charms upon one by means of drugs and potions of various kinds (Gal 5:20; Rev 9:21; 18:23; cp. Rev 21:8; 22:15. See note b, Luke 12:29). Enchantments were used to inflict evil, pains, hatred, sufferings, and death, or to bring good, health, love and other blessings.
7. Hatred. Greek: echthra (NT:2189), enmity (Luke 23:12; Rom 8:7; Eph 2:15-16; James 4:4); hatred (Gal 5:20). Bitter dislike, abhorrence, malice and ill will against anyone; tendency to hold grudges against or be angry at someone.

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8. Variance. Greek: eris (NT:2054), note, Rom 1:29. Dissensions, discord, quarreling, debating; and disputes.
9. Emulations. Greek: zeloi (NT:2205), envies, jealousies; striving to excel at the expense of another; seeking to surpass and out do others; uncurbed rivalry spirit in religion, business, society, and other fields of endeavor. Translated "zeal" (John 2:17; Rom 10:2; 2 Cor 7:11; 9:2; Phil 3:6; Col 4:13); "fervent mind" (2 Cor 7:7); "envy" (Acts 13:45; Rom 13:13; 1 Cor 3:3; 2 Cor 12:20; James 3:14-15); "jealousy" (2 Cor 11:2); "indignation" (Acts 5:17; Heb 10:27); and "emulation" (Gal 5:20).
10. Wrath. Greek: thumos (NT:2372), "wrath" (Gal 5:20; Luke 4:28; Acts 19:28; 2 Cor 12:20; Eph 4:31; Col 3:8; Heb 11:27; Rev 12:12; 14:8,10,19; 15:1,7; 16:1; 18:3); "indignation" (Rom 2:8); and "fierceness" (Rev 16:19; 19:15). Turbulent passions; domestic and civil turmoils; rage; determined and lasting anger.
11. Strife. Greek: eritheia (NT:2052), "strife" (Gal 5:20; 2 Cor 12:20; Phil 2:3; James 3:14,16); "contention" (Phil 1:16; Rom 2:8). Disputations; jangling; strife about words; angry contentions; contest for superiority or advantage; strenuous endeavor to equal or pay back in kind the wrongs done to one.
12. Seditions. Greek: dichostasia (NT:1370), "divisions" (Rom 16:17; 1 Cor 3:3); "seditions, parties, and factions" (Gal 5:20). Popular disorder; stirring up strife in religion, government, home, or any other place.
13. Heresies (note, Acts 5:17).
14. Envyings. Greek: phthonoi (NT:5355) (Gal 5:21; Matt 27:18; Mark 15:10; Rom 1:29; Phil 1:15; 1 Tim 6:4; Titus 3:3; James 4:5; 1 Peter 2:1) Pain, ill will, and jealousy at the good fortune or blessings of another; the most base of all degrading and disgraceful passions.

15. Murders. Greek: phonoi (NT:5408) (note, Matt 15:18) to kill; to spoil or mar the happiness of another; hatred (1 John 3:15).

16. Drunkenness. Greek: methai (NT:3178) (Gal 5:21; Luke 21:34; Rom 13:13). Living intoxicated; a slave to drink; drinking bouts.

17. Revellings. Greek: komoi (NT:2970) (Gal 5:21; 1 Peter 4:3); rioting (Rom 13:13). Lascivious and boisterous feastings, with obscene music, and other sinful activities; pleasures; carousings.