

BIBLE INSTITUTE OF MISSOURI
EVENING SCHOOL
August 25th through December 15th, 2008

GALATIANS & ROMANS

Instructor, Ted J. Clarke

WORKS OF THE FLESH DEFINED

Galatians 5:19-21

1. **Adultery (KJV)** – voluntary sexual intercourse by a married person with another who is not his/her mate. Can also be an attitude of heart (Mt. 5:27-28; 2 Ptr. 2:14). This would involve any sexual relationship with another who is not one's marriage partner, including homosexuality.
2. **Fornication** – in our modern English usage is defined to mean illegal sexual intercourse involving unmarried persons, **but**, in the Greek language and in the Scriptures it refers to “every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse” (Arndt & Gingrich Lexicon, p. 699). It is used in the Bible as the broad term to refer to all illegal sexual activity and thus can refer to such acts by either married or unmarried persons.
3. **Uncleanness** – the practice of every kind of immorality; what ever is opposite to purity; viciousness in sexual sins such as lying with an animal as with a man or woman.
4. **Lasciviousness** – uncontrolled lust and excessive desires; vile unrestrained actions; filthy words or indecent bodily movements; to follow an inclination toward sensuality and indecent conduct.
5. **Idolatry** – worship of an image or the god represented by it. Colossians 3:5 defines idolatry as “covetousness,” which means greediness, a strong desire for possessions, often those things which belong to another. It is a worship of material things of life, but is also a worship of self since the things we desire are for ourselves, to make **us** happy.
6. **Sorcery (witchcraft, KJV)** – comes from a word which means “to use drugs.” It is used here in a bad sense referring to those who practice the magical arts and enchantments. In the Greek version of the Old Testament (Septuagint or LXX) it is used in company with a class of people of whom God does not approve (Isa. 47:8-15). Sorcery is classed with the astrologers, star-gazers, fortune tellers, spiritualists, etc. Such practices are thus forbidden to Christians.
7. **Enmities (hatred, KJV)** – hating, to have hostile feelings and actions toward another; strong dislike whether concealed or revealed; the opposite of love.
8. **Strife (variance, KJV)** – to quarrel or wrangle; to be contentious in disposition; to cause fighting and discord.

9. **Jealousies (emulations, KJV)** – envy with malice; a contentious rivalry; strife to excel at the expense of another; lowering another to raise up one’s own self.

10. **Wraths** – outbursts of anger or rage or hostile feelings.

11. **Factions (strife, KJV)** – disputes and outbreaks of selfishness; a self-seeking attitude which will, if necessary, cause division to get one’s own way.

12. **Divisions (seditions, KJV)** – willing to bring about divisions and dissensions of a contentious nature; such as leads to parties.

13. **Parties (heresies, KJV)** – a school or sect which follows an opinion or thought to the point of dividing from others who disagree; such as comes from divisions.

14. **Envyings** – pain felt by one and a disposition to do harm to others because of their happiness and good fortune; an attitude which would deprive others of their joys because we do not have the same.

15. **Murders (KJV)** – unlawful destruction of human life. This also can be an attitude of the heart (Mt. 5:21-22; 1 Jn. 3:15). It is anger and hatred allowed to grow which leads to the thought and the thought often to the act.

16. **Drunkeness** – intoxicating the mind so as to dull the senses and inhibitions. To intoxicate is to poison (from toxin). Anything which accomplishes the effect of dulling the senses and reasoning capacity of man would fall into this category. Drugs, alcohol, food, and figuratively speaking worldly things and desires. There are degrees of intoxication or drunkenness – but all degrees are wrong!

Dr. Haven Emerson of Columbia University has said, “The higher qualities of the mind are the very first to be rubbed out by alcohol. The delicate capacities of intellectual decision and choice and discretion and will power are those faculties which are first dulled and then wiped out by alcohol because they are the least capable of withstanding its toxic (poisonous) affect.”

17. **Revellings** – to be festive in a riotous or noisy manner; generally used of feasts and drinking parties carried on into the late night; carousing; unseemly conduct.

18. **Such like** – Paul recognized that many things might be named that he did not specifically name and that other things might arise in the future which were not thought of when he wrote. These he included in “such like,” since the principles involved in these definitions would also apply to many specific things not mentioned by name.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

It is not enough just to not show the works of the flesh. We must have the fruit of the spirit in our lives. The fruit of the spirit consists of qualities in our lives which produce good works. It takes time to plant a tree and for it to grow and produce fruit. First it produces a little, then more, and we prune the tree so that it will grow more good fruit. **So it is with us.** We must aim at perfection, to bear good fruit, but not be discouraged when we fall. Problems will come even to Christians. We will bear some bad fruit because we do not always follow the good influences of God's Holy Spirit. We must prune the bad in order to bear the good.

The fruit of the spirit is equal to the fruit of the word revealed by the spirit. (Luke 8:11-15; John 6:63; 1 Cor. 2:6-13; Heb. 2:3-4; 2 Ptr. 1:5-11) The fruit we bear reveals what is within. Fruit of the Spirit is in the singular. We must bear all of this fruit. John 15:1-6 is the same as the fruit of the Spirit. These qualities are not supernatural and fantastic, but moral and spiritual qualities of daily life. These demonstrate that we are different from the world. (Rom. 12:1-2) Fruit bearing is absolutely essential. We must have it. (Jn. 15:2-8)

1. **Love** – (1) Love for God is supreme and involves our complete surrender (Mark 12:29-30; 1 Jn. 5:3; Jn. 14:15). (2) Our love for fellow man. Quality of this love is shown in Romans 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 13:4-7).

2. **Joy** – This is happiness in spite of difficulties because of our faith in the ultimate and final victory in Christ. Sorrows? Yes, but Joy in spite of these (Phil. 4:4; Jn. 15:11; 16:24; 1 Jn. 1:4).

3. **Peace** – “A felt absence of disturbance, felt presence of harmony in heart and in state toward God and man” (James MacGregor), (cf. Luke 1:79; 2:14) Christ preached peace (Acts 10:36; Eph. 6:15). Christ is our peace and brings peace among us (Eph. 2:14,15). Christ brings peace with God (Rom. 5:1). Peace of God equals perfect peace (Phil. 4:7).

As much as is in us we are to be at peace with all men (Rom. 12:18; Jn. 15:18,19).

Peace is also inner contentment, but it must be learned (Phil. 4:10-14).

Be peacemakers (Mt. 5:9-12).

Peace, but not at any price. Not peace which gives way to error (James 3:17,18). We need to think of what an intolerable situation will lead to if we leave it alone for the sake of peace. We must oppose those things which will undermine the gospel of Christ.

4. **Longsuffering** – “Patient endurance under injuries inflicted by others” (Lightfoot). “Forbearance in the presence of provocation” (Bales). “Self restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish” (Vine). Willingness to put up with some things from somebody (Mt. 18:21-35).

Parental love shows a good example of longsuffering (Lk. 15:20).

5. **Kindness** – Goodness of heart and gentleness; to be friendly, loving, generous. A general attitude which expresses itself in practical action in life.

6. **Goodness** – The quality of moral life in a person. “Desire characterized by goodness or desire to be and do good.” It is an energetic principle which involves disposition of heart and actions in life. You cannot be too good. Goodness is Godlike.

7. **Faithfulness** – Faith that God is and that He rewards those that seek him (Heb. 11:6). It is conviction that God is able to do what he promises (Rom. 4:20-21). It is surrender of life to God (Gal. 5:6). Faith which looks beyond the present to the future sees the reward and keeps the eye on the goal (2 Cor. 5:7).

Faithfulness to Christ is loyalty, being trustworthy and reliable (Mt. 25:21-23; Lk. 12:42ff).

Christ is our example of faithfulness (Heb. 2:17; 3:1-2; Rev. 1:5; 19:11).

We as stewards must be faithful, for we will be called to account (Mt. 25:19).

8. **Meekness** – (1) Toward God --- not weakness or cowardice. Moses was (Numbers 12:3). Christ was (Mt. 11:29). “Gentle strength under control; not just self-control, but God control.” “Humble submission to divine will; quiet acceptance of the discipline of life as coming from God; submissive attitude of the soul toward God, has the root in a humble child-like faith...and obeys without complaining about it being God’s will.” (2) Toward man – an expression of love not easily provoked; not quick tempered or vindictive, rather swayed by feeling of benevolence and love.

9. **Self-control** - One has command and mastery over life; complete opposite of intemperance. Extends to governing our entire lives and it is most fit to conclude the list of fruit of the spirit. Think of it! – self-control – doing what we know we ought to do. Athletes practice this to win a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible (1Cor. 9:25-27).

10. **Against such there is no law** -- The fruit generated by the Spirit through the word is not confined to just these nine items in Galatians 5:22-23. When Paul mentioned the works of the flesh in verses 19-21 he concluded with “*and such like*,” implying that there were other works of the flesh not named here that were of the same type or kind he did mention (Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 4:25-31; Col. 3:5-9 et al.). Likewise, in his closing comments on the fruit of the Spirit he does not profess to have named them all, but says, “*against such there is no law*” (Gal. 5:22-23). “Such” is an adjective from the Greek *toiouton* meaning, “such, such as this, of such a kind, of this sort.”¹ The Spirit’s fruit are those characteristics that the Christian demonstrates as a result of being led by the influence of the Holy Spirit as opposed to being led by the desires of the flesh (cf. 2 Pet. 1:2-8; Rom. 6:16-22; 12:1-21; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; 16:13f; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Gal. 2:20; 5:22-23; 6:1-10; Eph. 3:16-4:1; 4:17-24, 32; 5:1-23; 6:1-18; Phil. et al.). These passages and many others that could be cited show that fruit bearing through the influence of the Spirit is not limited to the nine items of Galatians 5:22-23.

Who would not want us to so act toward them? Yet, they do not want to bear such. Bearing these fruits makes us a blessing to others as well ourselves. Those who produce such in their lives “find no law of God interfering with them in the exercise of their labors.” (McGarvey)

[“Works of the Flesh” and “Fruit of the Spirit” definitions compiled by Ted J. Clarke]

