

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #41,
PNEUMATOLOGY #19,
Fruit of the Spirit #2: Works of the Flesh
Gal. 5:19-21
Grace Community Church
Kingston, Tennessee
Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

1. SCRIPTURE:

- a. **CONTEXT:** Gal. 5:16-25, (16) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, (21) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (24) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- b. **TEXT:** Gal. 5:19-21, (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, (21) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- a. **Takes up residence within us, whenever we are born again**
- i. **John 14:17, "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."**
 - ii. **1 John 4:4, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because HE WHO IS IN YOU is greater than he who is in the world."**
 - iii. **Romans 8:9, "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."**
- b. **Reproduce His nature within us**

i. John 15:5, “I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

ii. Therefore, as believers we are:

1. To resemble Gal. 5:22-23: (22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

2. NOT to resemble Gal. 5:19-21: (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, (20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, (21) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

3. Vv. 16-17 tell us that there is a war going on with the nature of every born-again believer

a. Gal. 5:16-17, (16) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

b. Galatians 5:17, he tells us, “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, SO THAT YOU DO NOT DO THE THINGS THAT YOU WISH.”

c. Rm. 7:19-20, Paul elaborated on this a little further, (19) For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. (20) Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

4. WORKS OF THE FLESH:

a. V. 19, ADULTERY AND FORNICATION

i. These are transgressions against the 7th Commandment, Exodus 20:14, “You shall not commit adultery.”

ii. The word FORNICATION is from the Greek word *porneia*:

1. Our English word PORNOGRAPHY comes from this word

2. Which is a broad term for sexual immorality of ANY kind

- iii. In Matthew 5:28, Jesus said, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

b. V. 19, UNCLEANNESS

- i. **UNCLEANNESS** is from a Greek word which refers to, “in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living; or of impure motives”¹
- ii. This same word is used in Romans 1:24, “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves”
- iii. The sentence of **UNCLEANNESS** is further elaborated on in Rm. 1:26-31: (26) For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. (27) Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. (28) And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, (30) backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

c. V. 19, LEWDNESS

- i. This word denotes: “excess, licentiousness, absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness”²
- ii. “... the fundamental thought [behind **LEWDNESS**] is the acknowledging of no restraints, the insolent doing of whatever one’s caprice may suggest.”³

d. V. 20, IDOLATRY

- i. Technically, **IDOLATRY** refers to the worshipping of gods other than Jehovah God
- ii. You may think, “Well, I am not guilty of this sin”

¹ Strong’s in OnLine Bible for ακαθαρσια at Gal. 5:19.

² *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, ασελγεια, p. 650.

³ Strong’s in OnLine Bible on “Synonym” for ασελγεια, in Rm. 1:19.

- iii. **But, IDOLATRY refers to more than bowing down to an image in worship**
- iv. **IDOLATRY can refer to ANYTHING which we put between us and God**
 - 1. **Colossians 3:5, “Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”**
 - 2. **Philippians 3:19, “whose end [is] destruction, whose god [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”**

e. V. 20, SORCERY

i. The word SORCERY:

- 1. **Comes from the Greek word from which we get our English words, PHARMACY and PHARMACEUTICALS**
- 2. **It “...primarily signified the use of medicine, drugs, spells; then [next the word was used of] poisoning; then, [of] sorcery.”⁴**
- 3. **“In sorcery, the use of drugs ... was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., ... designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer.”⁵**
- ii. **1 Samuel 15:23, “For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness [is as] iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from [being] king.”**

f. V. 20, HATRED

- i. **Luke 23:12, “That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at ENMITY with each other.”**
- ii. **Refers to:**
 - 1. **“An inner disposition [of hatred]...”⁶**
 - 2. **“Opposition and ... actual conflict between nations, groups and individuals.”⁷**

⁴ *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, φαρμακία, p. 1074-1075.

⁵ *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, φαρμακία, p. 1075.

⁶ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, II, 815.

⁷ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, II, 815.

g. V. 20, CONTENTIONS

i. This word refers to:

1. “contention, strife, wrangling”⁸
2. “... quarrel, especially rivalry”⁹

h. V. 20, JEALOUSIES

i. V. 20, OUTBURSTS OF WRATH

i. The Greek word which is translated here as **OUTBURSTS OF WRATH** is *thumos* which is the word we from which we get our English words **THERMAL** and **THERMOMETER**

j. V. 20, SELFISH AMBITIONS

- i. Is used “in the NT [for] ... a desire to put one’s self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit which does not disdain low arts; partisanship, fractiousness”¹⁰
- ii. “ ... is found before NT times only in Aristotle where it denotes a self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means.”¹¹

k. V. 20, DISSENSIONS

i. The Greek word:

Literally means, “Standing in two divisions”

l. V. 20, HERESIES

i. “Denotes (*a*) a choosing, choice (from *haireomai*, to choose); then, that which is chose, and hence, an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects...; such erroneous opinions are frequently the outcome of personal preference or the prospect of advantage”¹²

m. V. 21, ENVY

⁸ Strong’s in OnLine Bible on ερις at Gal. 5:20

⁹ *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, ερις, p. 236.

¹⁰ Strong’s in OnLine Bible on εριθεια in Gal. 5:20.

¹¹ Strong’s in OnLine Bible for εριθεια at Gal. 5:20.

¹² *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, αιρεσις p. 557.

- i. **“Envy, is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others”¹³**

n. V. 21, MURDERS

- i. **1 John 3:15, “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”**

o. V. 21, DRUNKENNESS

p. V. 21, REVELRIES, AND THE LIKE

- i. **“A nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honour of Bacchus [*ancient Greek and Roman fertility god with particular association with wine*] or some other deity, and sing and play before houses of male and female friends; hence used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry”¹⁴**

¹³ *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, φθονος p. 557.

¹⁴ Strong’s in OnLine Bible for κωμος at Gal. 5:21.