

Sunday, April 18, 2007—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 5:20

### Galatians 5:20

- “*Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*”
- Idolatry—is the worship of false gods. It seems logical that Paul would include this given his discussion the Galatians past experience in idol worship (Galatians 4:8-11).
  - Acts 17:16
  - I Corinthians 10:13
  - Colossians 3:5—Paul says that anything you covet is idolatry.
- Witchcraft—*Strong’s Concordance* offers the following definition: the use or the administering of drugs, 2) poisoning, 3) sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it, 4) metaph. the deceptions and seductions of idolatry. It is often used in conjunction with idolatry, either as an inducement or as a result.
  - I Samuel 15:23, II Chronicles 33:6—Hebrew word of “witchcraft” means to practice divination.
    - Divination: The act of divining; a foretelling future events, or discovering things secret or obscure, by the aid of superior beings, or by other than human means (Numbers 2:27, Deuteronomy 18:10).
    - Revelation 9:21, 18:23
- Hatred--Great dislike or aversion; hate; enmity. Hatred is an aversion to evil, and may spring from utter disapprobation, as the hatred of vice or meanness; or it may spring from offenses or injuries done by fellow men, or from envy or jealousy, in which case it is usually accompanied with malevolence or malignity. Extreme hatred is abhorrence or detestation (Webster’s 1828).
  - Luke 23:12
  - Romans 8:7
  - Ephesians 2:15-16
  - James 4:4
- Variance-- Difference that produces dispute or controversy; disagreement; dissension; discord. A mere variance may become a war. Without a spirit of condescension, there will be an everlasting variance. 1) At variance, in disagreement; in a state of difference or want of agreement, 2) In a state of dissension or controversy; in a state of enmity.
  - Romans 1:29
  - Romans 13:13
  - I Corinthians 1:11
  - I Timothy 6:4
  - Titus 3:9

- Emulations-- The act of attempting to equal or excel in qualities or actions; rivalry; desire of superiority, attended with effort to attain to it; generally in a good sense, or an attempt to equal or excel others in that which is praise-worthy, without the desire of depressing others. Rom.11. In a bad sense, a striving to equal or do more than others to obtain carnal favors or honors. 1) Contest; contention; strife; competition; rivalry accompanied with a desire of depressing another.
  - Acts 13:45
  - Romans 13:13
  
- Wrath-- Violent anger; vehement exasperation; indignation (*Webster's 1828*). Passion, angry, heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again, 2) glow, ardour, the wine of passion, inflaming wine (which either drives the drinker mad or kills him with its strength). *Strong's Concordance*
  - Luke 4:28
  - Acts 19:28
  - Romans 2:8
  - Ephesians 4:31
  
- Strife-- Exertion or contention for superiority; contest of emulation, either by intellectual or physical efforts. 2) Contention in anger or enmity; contest; struggle for victory; quarrel or war.
  - Romans 2:8
  - II Corinthians 12:20
  
- Seditions—"A factious commotion of the people, a tumultuous assembly of men rising in opposition to law or the administration of justice, and in disturbance of the public peace. Sedition is a rising or commotion of less extent than an *insurrection*, and both are less than *rebellion*; but some kinds of sedition, in Great Britain, amount to high treason. In general, sedition is a local or limited insurrection in opposition to *civil* authority, as mutiny is to *military*." (*Webster's 1828*)
  - Romans 16:17
  - I Corinthians 3:3
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- Heresies—"A fundamental error in religion, or an error of opinion respecting some fundamental doctrine of religion. But in countries where there is an established church, an opinion is deemed heresy, when it differs from that of the church. The Scriptures being the standard of faith, any opinion that is repugnant to its doctrines, is heresy; but as men differ in the interpretation of Scripture, an opinion deemed heretical by one body of christians, may be deemed orthodox by another. In Scripture and primitive usage, heresy meant merely sect, party, or the doctrines of a sect, as we now use denomination or persuasion, implying no reproach." (*Webster's 1828*)

- II Peter 2:1
- I Corinthians 11:19
- Acts 20:28-30—this is exactly what happened in the churches of Galatia.
- Galatians 4:17
- Heresy is an ever present danger within all of us and arises from the pride of the flesh.