

Sunday, October 29, 2023—Galatians 5:19-20 The Works Of The Flesh

### Galatians 5:19

- **Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,**
- Paul is going to give us a checklist to help us identify what the works of the flesh are.
- The word “manifest” means apparent or obvious. The indication is that it is obvious when you are operating on the basis of your flesh.
- **Adultery**—this is obviously the breaking of the marriage contract through sexual activity with someone other than your spouse. Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of the English Language defines “adultery” as:
  - “1. Violation of the marriage bed; a crime, or a civil injury, which introduces, or may introduce, into a family, a spurious offspring.

By the laws of Connecticut, the sexual intercourse of any man, with a married woman, is the crime of adultery in both: such intercourse of a married man, with an unmarried woman, is fornication in both, and adultery of the man. . .

In common usage, adultery means the unfaithfulness of any married person to the marriage bed.

  - 2. In a scriptural sense, all manner of lewdness or unchastity, as in the seventh commandment.
  - 3. In scripture, idolatry, or apostasy from the true God. Jeremiah 3:8.”
  - Leviticus 20:10
  - Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21—in the lost adultery origins in the heart.
- Galatians 5:19—according to Paul, in a believer “adultery” is a work of the flesh.
- **Fornication**—is harlotry, prostitution; by definition, it also includes adultery and incest. Illicit sexual activity both inside and outside of marriage. Noah Webster defined the English word “fornication” as follows:
  - “1. The incontinence or lewdness of unmarried persons, male or female; also, the criminal conversation of a married man with an unmarried woman.
  - 2. Adultery. Matthew 5:32.
  - 3. Incest. 1 Corinthians 5:1.

4. Idolatry; a forsaking of the true God, and worshipping of idols. 2 Chronicles 21:11, Revelation 19:2.”

- I Corinthians 6:18
- Ephesians 5:3
- I Thessalonians 4:3
- **Uncleanness**—Strong’s Concordance defines the word rendered “uncleanness” as “in a moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living physical or moral impurity.” It is used to describe general immorality.
  - Romans 1:24
  - Romans 6:19
  - II Corinthians 12:21
  - Ephesians 4:19
  - Ephesians 5:3
  - Colossians 3:5
- According to Ernest Campbell in his commentary on *Galatians*, uncleanness has three shades of meaning in the New Testament:
  - First, filth and rottenness (Matthew 23:27).
  - Second, it is used to depict impure motives (I Thessalonians 2:3)
  - Third, it is used to describe immorality in general (Romans 1:24, 6:19, I Thessalonians 4:7). (Campbell, 142)
- Galatians 5:19—in this context, it appears to be referring again to sexual sin specifically.
- **Lasciviousness**—deals with the notion of unbridled lust, outrageous conduct, i.e., the opposite of Godliness. The word seems to encompass the most extreme forms of sexual perversion: homosexuality, bestiality, etc. Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines this word as follows,
  - “1. Looseness; irregular indulgence of animal desires; wantonness; lustfulness.” (Eph. 4:19)
  - 2. Tendency to excite lust, and promote irregular indulgences.”
  - Romans 1:26-27

- I Timothy 1:10

### **Galatians 5:20**

- **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,**
- **Idolatry**—is the worship of false gods. Noah Webster defined “idolatry” as:
  - “1. The worship of idols, images, or any thing made by hands, or which is not God.  
  
Idolatry is of two kinds; the worship of images, statues, pictures, etc. made by hands; and the worship of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars, or of demons, angels, men and animals.  
  
2. Excessive attachment or veneration for any thing, or that which borders on adoration.”
- It seems logical that Paul would include this, given his discussion about the Galatians’ 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.