

Sunday, November 19, 2023—Galatians 5:20 The Works Of The Flesh, Part 4 (Wrath, Strife, & Seditions)

- **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,**
- **Wrath**—Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines “wrath” as follows:
 - “Violent anger; vehement exasperation; indignation.
 - Esther 2:1
 - Habakkuk 3:2
 - The effects of anger.
 - Proverbs 27:3
 - The just punishment of an offense or crime.
 - Gods wrath in Scripture, is his holy and just indignation against sin. Romans 1:18.”
- *Strong’s Concordance* defines the Greek word translated “wrath” as follows:
 - “1) 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). “
 - Luke 4:28
 - Acts 19:28
 - Romans 2:8
 - Ephesians 4:31
- **Strife**—the word “strife” occurs 39 times in 38 verses in the King James Bible.
 - Genesis 13:7-8
- Noah Webster defines “strife” as follows:
 - “1) 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.
 - Judges 12:2

3. Opposition; contrariety; contrast.”

- The word translated “strife” (*eritheia*) in Galatians 5:20 occurs 7 times in the New Testament. According to *Strong’s Concordance* it carries the following meanings:
 - “Electioneering or intriguing for office.
 - apparently, in the NT a courting distinction, a desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit which does not disdain low arts
 - partisanship, fractiousness”
 - Romans 2:8
 - II Corinthians 12:20
 - Philippians 1:16; 2:3
 - James 3:14, 16
- The book of Proverbs provides a lot of insight regarding why “strife” is a work of the flesh.
 - Proverbs 15:18; 16:28; 17:1, 14, 19; 20:3; 22:10, 20-21; 28:25; 29:22; 30:33
- Note the connection in Proverbs 30:33 between “wrath” and “strife.”
- **Seditions**—Noah Webster defines the word “sedition” as follows:
 - “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*)
- The word translated “seditions” (*dichostasia*) in Galatians 5:20 occurs three times in the New Testament and is variously rendered as follows by the King James translators.
 - Romans 16:17—divisions
 - I Corinthians 3:3—divisions
 - Galatians 5:20—seditions
- Ezra 4:15, 19—the Bible clearly uses the word “sedition” in reference to political matters.
- Luke 23:13-26—Barabbas was in prison for “sedition made in the city.”

- Acts 24:5—Paul is accused of being “a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world.”
- Galatians 5:20—judging from Biblical usage, as a work of the flesh “seditions” seems to include both divisions among the brethren as well as secular politics.