

**I. Introduction: How many kinds of people are there?**

**II. The flesh produces deeds according to its nature. v. 19-21**

**A. The deeds (works) of the flesh are evident. v. 19a**

1. Though your inner nature/desires may be hidden, your deeds, which reveal your true nature, are plain for all to see.
2. This is one of several lists of sins/vices. Rom. 1:18-32 Mark 7:21-22 1 Co. 6:9-10 2 Co. 12:20-21 Eph. 4:17-19 Col. 3:5-9 1 Th. 4:3-7 2 Tim. 3:2-5
3. Why does Paul refer to that which the flesh produces as *works*, while the Spirit produces *fruit*?
4. What is the purpose of this list of fleshly deeds?
5. What kinds of sinful deeds are emphasized in this list? v. 15,26 1 Co. 3:3
6. The words on this list have overlapping meanings.

**B. Sexual sins. 5:19b 2 Co. 12:21 Rom. 1:26-27**

1. **Immorality (porneia)** – sexual immorality of various kinds. Mt. 5:32 15:19 19:9 Mark 7:21 1 Co. 5:1 6:13,18 2 Co. 12:21 Eph. 5:3 Col. 3:5 1 Th. 4:3
2. **Impurity (uncleanness)**. Ro. 1:24 6:19 2 Co. 12:21 Eph. 4:19 5:3 Co. 3:5 1 Th. 4:7
3. **Sensuality (debauchery)**. Mark 7:22 Rom. 13:13 2 Co. 12:21 Eph. 4:19 1 Pe. 4:3 2 Pe. 2:2,7,18 Jude 1:4
4. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, faithfulness and self-control. 5:22-23

**C. Sins of worship. v. 20a**

1. **Idolatry (idol worship)** – putting anything in the place of God. 1 Co. 10:14 12:2 2 Co. 6:19 Co. 3:5 1 Pe. 4:3 1 Th. 1:9 1 Jo. 5:21 Rev. 9:20 Acts 15:20 Ro. 1:21-25
2. **Sorcery (pharmakeia)** – misuse of the supernatural. Rev. 9:21 18:23 1 Sa. 15:23 Acts 19:18-20 Ex. 7:11,22 8:14 Isa. 47:9,12 Deut. 18:9-14
3. The Spirit produces love and joy in the Lord. 5:22

**D. Sins which disrupt relationships with others. v. 20b-21a,15,26**

1. **Enmities** – hostility as against an enemy. 4:16 Mt. 5:44 Luke 23:12 Ro. 8:7 12:20
2. **Strife** – contentions. 1 Co. 1:11 3:3 2 Co. 12:20 Phil. 1:15 Ro. 1:29 13:13 1 Ti. 6:4
3. **Jealousy** – zeal for self. Rom. 13:13 1 Co. 3:3 2 Co. 12:20 Js. 3:14,16 Acts 5:17
4. **Outbursts of anger** – wrath. Lu. 4:28 Acts 19:28 2 Co. 12:20 Eph. 4:31 Pr. 25:28
5. **Disputes** – ambitious rivalry. Ro. 2:8 2 Co. 12:20 Phil. 1:17,20 2:3 Js. 3:14,16
6. **Dissensions** – standing apart or choosing sides. Ro. 16:17 Pr. 20:3
7. **Factions (hairesis)** – divisive opinions. 1 Co. 11:19 2 Pe. 2:1 Titus 3:10
8. **Envy** – a grudging embittered spirit. Mt. 27:18 Ro. 1:29 Phil. 1:15 1 Tim. 6:4 Titus 3:3 1 Pe. 2:1 Pr. 14:30
9. Why does Paul place so much emphasis on these relational sins? 5:15,26
10. The Holy Spirit produces love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control in relationships. 5:22-23

**E. Sins of the dissolute life. 5:21b**

1. **Drunkenness** – and other misuse of intoxicating substances. Luke 21:34 Rom. 13:13 1 Th. 5:7 Eph. 5:18 1 Co. 5:11 6:9-10 Pr. 23:20-21,29-35 31:4-7
2. **Carousing (wild parties)**. Rom. 13:13 1 Pe. 4:3
3. Do professing Christians actually act this way? 5:13 1 Co. 11:21
4. The Spirit gives you self control and higher desires for joy in the Lord. v. 22-23 Ps. 34:8 Isa. 55:1-2

### III. Those who practice such fleshly deeds will not inherit the kingdom of God. v. 21b

- A. This list of sinful fleshly deeds is not comprehensive.
- B. Nor will every fleshly person practice each of these vices.
- C. Is Paul contradicting himself?
  - 1. He spent over four chapters teaching that we are saved (and receive the heavenly inheritance) by faith and not works. 2:16 3:29,18
  - 2. Now he seems to be saying that people will be judged by their works.
- D. Those who are truly saved will be inwardly transformed by the indwelling Spirit.
  - 1. Heirs of the kingdom of God have received a new spiritual nature and are no longer characterized by the fleshly deeds of the world. 1:4 1 Co. 6:9-11
  - 2. Those who remain enslaved to *practicing* fleshly deeds are not yet converted and remain under wrath. 6:8 Eph. 5:5 Col. 3:8 1 Co. 6:9-10
  - 3. There is no such category as a carnal/fleshly Christian. Ro. 8:5-6,13 Phil. 1:6 2 Co. 5:17
  - 4. Those who falsely think themselves to be heirs of heaven need to be warned. 2 Cor. 13:5 1 Jo. 2:3-4 Mt. 7:22-23

### IV. Conclusion: How does this list of fleshly deeds impact our lives?

- A. We are thankful that God has delivered us from these ugly deeds through the gospel. 1:4 1 Pet. 4:3-4 Col. 3:5-7
- B. We have put to death the desires and the deeds of the flesh. v. 24
  - 1. In one sense the flesh has been decisively defeated through our union with Christ on the cross. 2:20 Ro. 6:6 Col. 2:20
  - 2. We are responsible to continually put to death the desires of our old nature. v. 17 Rom. 6:12-13 8:12-13 Mark 8:34 Luke 9:23
  - 3. This list helps us to identify that which we are putting to death. Ro. 8:12-13
  - 4. Different ones among us struggle with different fleshly desires.
  - 5. You experience the daily battle against the flesh with its works and desires.
- C. You understand better what it means to keep in step with the Spirit. v. 25,16,18 6:16 Ro. 4:12 Phil. 3:16
- D. You are thankful for Christ.
  - 1. Jesus was perfectly free from each of these fleshly deeds. 2 Co. 5:21 Heb. 4:16
  - 2. He atoned for our fleshly failures. 3:13

### Discussion questions

- 1. Which of the works of the sinful nature do you see in your life?
- 2. Where in your life is the pull of the flesh the strongest?
- 3. How does the Holy Spirit help you to overcome these desires?
- 4. Is it possible for a true Christian to be enslaved to carnality?
- 5. If we are saved by faith, how can Paul say that those who practice the deeds of the flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God?
- 6. What is our role in fighting the desires and deeds of the flesh?
- 7. What benefit do we gain from studying the deeds of the flesh?