
DEEDS OF THE FLESH

What are these “deeds of the flesh” that we are to put to death?

Fornication – Sex act between unmarried couples. In the Bible, all sexual contact is forbidden unless sanctified by marriage. There are those who feel that pre-marital sex is allowable if those involved later become married. This is a subtle lie, for it allows the act of marriage to make right what God condemns. Sex outside of marriage is wrong.

Impurity (Katharsos) – Opposite of pure. Comes from a root that can mean “pus from an unclean wound” or “an untrimmed tree.” Impurity makes man unfit to come before God. Man becomes soiled by the things that separate him from God.

Wantonness (Licentiousness) – Unrestrained passion for any pleasure. To do whatever comes to mind. See Mark 7:22, 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19, 1 Peter 4:3, Jude 4, Romans 13:13, and 2 Peter 2:18.

Idolatry – To worship things or objects other than the true God as revealed in the Christian Bible. Idolatry is not restricted to the worship of an idol, but extends to the worship of anything apart from God.

Witchcraft – Use of drugs. Comes from the same root word as our word “pharmacology.” In ancient times (as well as now), drugs were used to engender responses that seem supernatural. Drugs and the occult are often intertwined.

Enmity – One who is chronically hostile toward others. Combative, resisting, resentful.

Strife – Divisive, combative, competitive, argumentative, quarreling, wrangling. Contention that is born of envy, jealousy, and desire for prestige, position, and prominence.

Jealousy – To desire what someone else has. “They have it. I don’t. I want it.” Our word “zeal” derives from the word for jealousy (Zelos).

Envy – The most warped and twisted of all human emotions. It not only wants what you have, but it wants to deny you of it.

Anger (uncontrolled temper) – A hot, rushing volcanic anger or rage; bursts of anger. Comes quickly and leaves quickly; a contrived anger. Comes from the Greek work *thumos*.

Self-Seeking – Selfish ambition. Seeking position rather than function. Asking, “What can this situation do for me?” vs. “What can I do for this situation?”

Dissension – A standing apart; disunity, individualism, factionalism. The opposite of a team player.

Heretical Division – Polarization. Our word “heresy” comes from this word. Divided by words and concepts that are not biblical.