

The Deeds of the Flesh

Found on the Internet by Psalmist Dell Kinsey

The following article was found on the Internet and submitted for use in The Channel. We do not know the original author and have taken the privilege of editing the article to conform with the beliefs here at Rivers of Living Water Cathedral, however, in no way diluting the Word of God.

“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are these; immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21 from New American Standard Bible.

Here is a catalog of terrible sins. There are fifteen specific **“deeds of the flesh”** listed here; and the phrase **“and things like these”** shows that Paul had not enumerated them all. There are many others and with a close study of the New Testament one can discover those not listed. It would be of great value if every child of God could be made fully aware of the significance of the apostle’s remark that they who do such **“shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”** This is a plain, positive declaration from an inspired apostle of Jesus Christ that must be taken at face value. The letter was written to the ecclesias (Christians) in Galatia and they were being warned AGAIN about the consequences of doing these things. This proves beyond doubt that a child of God who practices as a lifestyle any one or all of these sinful deeds does not represent expected Christian behavior and IF he or she dies without being forgiven, he or she has made themselves invalid of inheriting the Kingdom of God according to the Word of God. So, beyond question even a child of God may so sin as to be finally lost in hell. How much clearer would this fact need to be stated? Let it be emphasized that an individual would not have to be guilty of ALL these sins to be condemned; just being guilty of any one of these sins is enough to condemn us.

There are two levels of life, or two planes, upon which the children of God may live: a lower (carnal) or a higher (spiritual). The one who desires to flow in the fullness of God **must** live upon the higher, spiritual plane. This means living ‘in the Spirit,’ by the direction and leading of God’s Spirit, which is accomplished when one lives according to the teaching of God’s Word.

Those who live upon the lower, carnal, plane live as the world does. They are those who ‘live after the flesh.’ ***“For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace; because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”*** Romans 8:5-8 from New American Standard Bible. Notice the word **‘set’** – as a verb, which is how it is used in the verse above, this word has 29 definitions! **Here it means never wavers or has the intention not to change.** Today many among the Lord’s people are living upon this low level, engaging in these deeds of the flesh. Perhaps it would not be difficult in many cities today to find among the saints an example of every sin in this catalog in the lives of those who claim to be disciples of Jesus. Even among the leaders, elders, deacons, and preachers, such deeds of the flesh are often practiced. It is a shameful condition. Such conduct, if allowed to go without correction, will condemn to eternal torment those who are guilty and it will destroy the credibility of the saints who tolerate and excuse such behavior.

The higher, spiritual, level is where every Christian should strive to live, and that is where the fruit of the Spirit is more easily manifested. The lower level of life is the fleshly, the carnal level, the level of the world. A congregation is composed of both levels. Because we serve a long-suffering God filled with compassion and mercy, the more mature Christian must become their

brother's keeper and live a life that encourages and challenges others to follow. Remember in I Corinthians 11:1 Paul says, "**Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.**"

Paul says, "the works of the flesh are **manifest**" or as stated above "**the deeds of the flesh are evident.**" This means that they are plain and easily recognized. But are they? Seemingly not many among the saints recognize and oppose such sins. How many saints could give a satisfactory definition of each of these fifteen deeds of the flesh? If we do not know what they mean, how can we know that we are not practicing them? Several years ago, in a class a man was asked what the word lasciviousness meant. He said, "I don't know what it means, but I know I ain't guilty cause it sounds so bad." Likely this represents the real sentiment of many of the saints. Can it be that for the most part we are so ignorant of God's Word relative to sin that, like Hebrews 5:14, we are not able to 'discern good and evil'? We should **know** what this catalog of sins means. Also, we should have a clear understanding of what would be in the "**things like these,**" as well as knowing the dire consequences of engaging in such things.

If someone were to offer us \$100,000 if we would not commit any of these "**deeds of the flesh,**" we would search out what these terms mean and refrain from the doing of such in order to obtain the money. There is something involved in this matter that is far greater than \$100,000. It is the destiny of our soul! Should we not be more concerned about our soul than obtaining any amount of money? Let us learn well the meaning of "**the deeds of the flesh**" and see that we do not practice such things.

If we should make up a list of what we consider to be sins, would we name ALL of the ones Paul did? Certainly, we would put down the wicked things which others may do and which may not be our practice; but would we list those which strike home?

Our definition of what is sinful is often decided upon a basis of personal factors of what we like and dislike. With our limitations, we should never be willing to try to simply avoid only that which we have decided within ourselves to be wrong. We should let God's Word tell us. Truly as J. W. McGarvey says, "Verily all professing Christians would do well to take heed to what the Bible designates as sins, and not trust too much to their own fallible sentiment and judgment in such matters." Sin, by definition, is what is displeasing to God. Remember, all disobedience is displeasing to God.

In this article, an attempt has been made to give a clear and positive meaning to the various deeds of the flesh so rampant in today's world and even among saints. **We must refrain** from "**the deeds of the flesh**" and give ourselves to serving God in truth and righteousness. **We must be** the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world."

It would behoove each of us to meditate upon the above article and ask God to reveal ourselves to each of us. Then, repent and ask God for help so we can live as He has declared His children should live in this world so we can live forever with Him in the next world. Yes, there is a **next world!**