

Lesson 1

WHAT ARE THE WORKS OF THE FLESH?

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like— (Galatians 5:19-21).

Before learning about the fruit of the Spirit, the Bible contrasts the Spirit with the works of the flesh. We have defined the works of the flesh, so we know what they are and why it is important to repent of these fleshly sins.

ADULTERY is a violation of intimacy in marriage. By forbidding adultery, the partners in marriage have a sense of security.

1. Write Matthew 5:27-28.

FORNICATION is any form of sexual immorality, including adultery. We get our English word "pornography" from the original Greek word. It is any form of sexual sin outside of marriage, including illicit sexual sins such as homosexuality,

2. Write 1 Corinthians 6:9.

UNCLEANNES is moral defilement, whether in the form of lust, immoral, or extravagant living. It is a state of moral impurity related to thought, action, or speech, that can be sexual.

3. Write Romans 1:24.

LEWDNESS denotes excess or absence of restraint, unbridled lusts, and little sense of shame. It does not care what God or people think. It shocks public civility and has no regard for society or self-respect.

4. Write Ephesians 4:19.

IDOLATRY is the worship of or excessive devotion to, or reverence for, some person or thing, replacing the one, true God in our heart. Idolatry can also be a matter of the heart. Pride, self-centeredness, greed, gluttony, a love for possessions, and ultimately, rebellion against God are forms of idolatry. Is it any wonder that God hates it?

5. Write Colossians 3:5.

SORCERY: The Greek word for *sorcery* is *pharmakeia*, from which we get our English word "pharmacy." Ancient Pagan priests administered poisonous drugs to exercise sorcery using potions, spells, charms or "black" or "white" magic, trying to manipulate the power of a god or a demon to work on their behalf. God calls it an abomination.

6. Write Revelation 18:23b.

HATRED is enmity. This sin causes a person to cast someone in the role of the enemy. It is a sin of hostility. Hatred is the opposite of love, for love seeks the highest good in others.

7. Write Proverbs 10:12.

CONTENTION is strife, quarrel, especially rivalry, debate, or wrangling. This sin is an expression of enmity. A person indulging in this sin loves to do battle with people and expresses antagonism with hostility.

8. Write 1 Corinthians 3:3.

JEALOUSY is a strong feeling of resentment against someone else's success. They try to equal or surpass their friends' achievements. They view all others as rivals.

9. Write James 3:16.

OUTBURSTS OF WRATH denotes impulsive, violent rage. The Greek word is used to describe wild, frenzied animals in an attack. The person is very violent or angry for a brief time, and then their outburst dies down.

10. Write Psalm 37:8.

SELFISH AMBITIONS cause a person to scheme to accomplish their means. They want to put themselves forward above everything else. In doing this, they foster a complaining spirit toward others.

11. Write Philippians 2:3.

DISSENSIONS means division. People argue and fight, thinking of each other as an enemy. They step over others and separate people. They easily confuse prejudice with principle. (Romans 16:17 and 1 Corinthians. 3:3)

12. Write Romans 16:17.

HERESIES are self-willed opinions that stand in opposition to the truth of the Word of God. Heresy causes dissension and factions with those who hold to the truth. Heresy is the sin of forming doctrinal cliques.

13. Write 2 Peter 2:2.

ENVY is a state of ill will toward another person because of their presumed advantage. An envious person is a bitter person who maliciously desires the worst for other people.

14. Write Proverbs 14:30.

MURDER is the premeditated taking of a human life.

DRUNKENNESS is an intoxication that renders people insensible causing economic ruin to the person and their family.

REVELRIES are wild drinking parties at night into the early morning that includes unrestrained immorality.

15. Write Romans 13:13.

16. Write Galatians 5:21.

As believers in Christ, we will make mistakes. When we do, we must repent and never do that sin again. The Christian believer who repeats these sins or makes any one of these sins a habit is warned they will not inherit God's kingdom. The remedy? Galatians 5:16: "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." That's what this chapter is all about. Denying the flesh and walking in the Spirit. Walking in the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit!