

Works of the Flesh Definitions (Gal 5)

Sexual immorality: unfaithfulness to the marriage bond whether as single or married person

Impurity: unclean, unchaste, obscene acts or thoughts/desires not sanctioned by the marriage vows

Debauchery/sensuality: “open and reckless contempt of propriety” (Stott)

Idolatry: “brazen worship of other gods” (Stott); anything that takes priority over the Lord God

Witchcraft/sorcery: “secret tampering with the powers of evil” (Stott)

Hatred/enmity: hostility, animosity; active ill will

Discord/strife: “lack of harmony; active quarreling or conflict” (Webster’s Dict, 10th ed.); factions

Jealousy: feeling of upset about and desiring of another’s position or possessions

Fits of rage/fits of anger: violent and uncontrolled anger; pent up fury

Selfish ambition/rivalries: desire to achieve for self-elevation

Dissensions: partisan and contentious quarreling; a complaining, divisive spirit

Factions/divisions: parties w/in a group that are often contentious or self-seeking; clique

Envy: “painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage; malice” (Webster’s Dict, 10th ed.)

Drunkenness: drinking to the point of the inability to control one’s self and reasoning; “given to habitual excessive use of alcohol” (Webster’s Dictionary, 10th ed.)

Orgies: gatherings/parties that lack control or moderation; drunken parties that degenerate into sexual immorality

(John R.W. Stott, *The Message of Galatians* (Downers Groves: Inter-Varsity Press, 1986), 147.

THE WAY OUT

1. Confess troubling sin by name.

2. Because JC already died for that sin, ask for forgiveness on that basis and for restoration.

1 Jn 1:7, 9 – *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (ESV)

3. Declare your allegiance to Jesus Christ, not to the flesh.

- I willingly offer my imagination, speech patterns, thoughts of others, attitudes, activities...

4. Offer the Holy Spirit control of every area of your life (emotions, will, attitudes, words, actions) and particularly that troubling area. Choose to cooperate with Him by saying “No” to sin and “Yes” to right living.

5. Praise the Lord for His freedom – **Ephesians 1; Colossians 1:11-20**

6. Be on the look out for temptation back into bondage. Deal with any failure quickly and ruthlessly.

John 8:31-32, 36: “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (ESV) - “truly and unquestionably free” (Amplified Bible)