

Sunday, April 11, 2010—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 5:19-20a

### **Galatians 5:19**

- “*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*”
- Paul is going to give us a checklist to help us identify what the works of the flesh are.
- The word “manifest” means apparent or obvious. The indication is that it is obvious when you are operating on the bases of your flesh.
- Adultery—this is obviously the breaking of the marriage contract through sexual activity with someone other than your spouse.
  - Leviticus 20:10
- Fornication—is harlotry, prostitution; by definition it also includes adultery and incest. Illicit sexual activity both inside and outside of marriage.
  - I Corinthians 5:1
  - I Corinthians 6:18
  - Ephesians 5:3
  - I Thessalonians 4:3
- Uncleanness—physical or moral impurity. Used to describe general immorality. According to Ernest Campbell in his commentary on Galatians. Uncleanness has three shades of meaning in the New Testament
  - First, filth and rottenness (Matthew 23:27).
  - Second, it is used to depict impure motives (I Thessalonians 2:3)
  - Third, it is used to describe immorality in general (Romans 1:24, 6:19, I Thessalonians 4:7).
  - In the context it appears to be referring again to sexual sin specifically
- Lasciviousness—deals with the most extreme forms of sexual perversion. Homosexuality, Bestiality, etc. *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* defines two word as follows, “Looseness; irregular indulgence of animal desires; wantonness; lustfulness.”
  - I Timothy 1:10
  - Romans 1:26-27

### **Galatians 5:20**

- “*Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,*”
- Idolatry—is the worship of false gods. It seems logical that Paul would include this given his discussion the Galatians past experience in idol worship (Galatians 4:8-11).

- Acts 17:16
- I Corinthians 10:13
- Colossians 3:5—Paul says that anything you covet is idolatry.
- Witchcraft—*Strong's Concordance* offers the following definition: the use or the administering of drugs, 2) poisoning, 3) sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it, 4) metaph. the deceptions and seductions of idolatry. It is often used in conjunction with idolatry, either as an inducement or as a result.
  - I Samuel 15:23, II Chronicles 33:6—Hebrew word of “witchcraft” means to practice divination.
    - Divination: The act of divining; a foretelling future events, or discovering things secret or obscure, by the aid of superior beings, or by other than human means (Numbers 2:27, Deuteronomy 18:10).
    - Revelation 9:21, 18:23
- Continued Next Week