

LIKE A DOVE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

January 7, 2020



“All You Need Is Dove”

Galatians 5:19-23

Works of the Flesh:

- 1) Sexual Sins: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness (see v. 19)
 - Adultery: A married person having sex with someone who is not their spouse, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or incestual; includes lust for another’s spouse
 - Fornication: Having sex before marriage, whether married, unmarried, or in prostitution; lust in the heart
 - Uncleanness: Moral impurity, including evil thoughts or actions; moral perversion, such as homosexuality, pedophilia, or bestiality
 - Lewdness: The expression of lust or promiscuity, not the act of sex but everything leading up to it (a “player” or a “tease”); can also include dressing provocatively to induce lustful thoughts
- 2) Spiritual Sins: Idolatry, sorcery (see v. 20)
 - Idolatry: Worshiping false gods as well as reverence, adoration, or devotion to anything instead of God (e.g., saints, statues, celebrities, cars)
 - Sorcery: The practice of magic through demonic powers. The Greek word, pharmakeia, is the root word in pharmacy. False religions used mind- and mood-altering drugs in their worship.
- 3) Societal Sins: Hatred, contentions, jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries (see vv. 20-21)
 - Hatred/Contentions: An intense dislike or bitterness toward another person, which leads to contentions, quarreling, and being difficult to deal with
 - Jealousies: Resentment against a rival or striving to excel at another’s expense (e.g., Tonya Harding sabotaging rival Nancy Kerrigan during the 1994 Olympics)
 - Outbursts of Wrath: Sudden, unrestrained comments of hostility with little or no provocation (e.g., while driving)
 - Selfish Ambitions/Dissensions/Heresies/Envy: Animosity toward individuals or groups that festers and becomes feuds lasting for generations, even becoming national hostilities; bigotry/hatred toward a people group for no personal reason
 - Murders: Literal murder as well as Jesus’ teaching that hating another person is murder in the heart
 - Drunkenness/Revelries: Drunkenness is being under the influence of alcohol; revelries indicate a rowdy and crude spirit.

Fruits of the Spirit:

- 1) Toward God: Love, joy, peace (see v. 22)
 - Love: The Bible says, “God is love” (1 John 4:8). True love is a choice, not a feeling; it is acting out love in tangible ways. “God so loved the world that He gave...” (John 3:16, emphasis added). True love is dependent on the giver’s character, not emotion.
 - Joy: Gladness and delight not based on circumstance; joy in the midst of great pain—a joy that Jesus said the world can’t comprehend
 - Peace: The presence of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, not the absence of conflict or war; an attitude of calm, quiet confidence despite fearful situations, believing God is in control
- 2) Toward Others: Patience, kindness, goodness (see v. 22)
 - Patience: Patient people display endurance, longsuffering, and perseverance. Patience is connected to sharing the gospel in the New Testament. God is patient; He waits for the lost to come to Him.
 - Kindness/Goodness: This is closely related and is the picture of one who possesses moral goodness/integrity plus generously expressing it in actions toward others. God demonstrated His kindness and goodness to us through salvation.
- 3) Toward Self: Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (see vv. 22-23)
 - Faithfulness: Reliable or trustworthy, especially faithfulness to Jesus; continued, consistent submission and obedience to the Spirit who gives the ability to be faithful
 - Gentleness: Grace of the soul and strength under control, not weakness (e.g., ability to correct another gently); the opposite of self-assertive
 - Self-control: Points back to the works of the flesh. Those who have the Spirit within have the ability to deny the flesh. Self-control provides the power to say yes to the Spirit’s harvest of spiritual fruit.