



Why Study Lists of Sins? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Bible lists are boring to most people who have not taken the time to examine them more fully, but to Bible students they provide a concentrated glimpse into the mind of God. A list always draws a connection between the items listed themselves, and the thoughts leading to and away from that list. Lists are not like monument inscriptions without historical context, but are directly the results of the contextual messages in which they occur. **Bible lists are yet another proof of the inspiration of the Bible**, and, like an oasis of teaching, give the Bible student a place from which to drink deeply of God's powerful word. If there are questions about the teaching of Scripture, Bible lists give students a "chair" upon which to sit and meditate about their education. Lists are "gold mines" of hidden treasures and you are now invited to search them for "nuggets" of spiritual life:

□ BECAUSE *Bible prophecy is verbally-inspired*, that is, each word was selected from the writer's vocabulary and correctly guided to the writing surface by the power of the Holy Spirit. This clearly is claimed for the writers of the Old Testament in **2 Peter 1:16-21** and for the New Testament in **1 Corinthians 2:9-16**. **Peter claimed** Gospel facts were substantiated by:

- 1) eyewitnesses, and;
- 2) the fulfillment of those prophecies being accurately given by the Holy Spirit.

Paul said:

- 1) there is no knowledge of a spirit, God's or man's, without it being revealed by that spirit;
- 2) the inspired writers had "the mind of Christ" freely given to them by God;
- 3) that it was taught and written in words not of man's but the Holy Spirit's choosing.

There is no such thing as fulfillment of prophecy unless both the prophecy and its fulfillment are accurately recorded down to the very wording of it.

So argued Paul regarding the "seed" promised to Abraham: "

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. (**Galatians 3:16**)

God's original promise to Abraham is recorded as, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice" (**Genesis 22:18**). There is no argument about the Hebrew word "seed" that can make that promise apply to the Israelites, Levites, or anyone before Jesus Christ. If this argument is not true, then there is no provision in God's promise for Christians, for those baptized into Christ "have put on Christ" and "are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (**Galatians 3:26,29**). If we had no verbal record of the

promise, there could be no visible fulfillment in Christ. If there is no visible fulfillment in Christ, there is no such thing as being saved by faith in Jesus Christ!

- BECAUSE *only the Bible has recorded history so accurately*. The late Robert Dick Wilson, master of 45 Bible-related languages, noted this when he concluded:

The Hebrew Scriptures [here referring to **Genesis 14**] contain the names of 26 or more foreign kings whose names have been found on documents contemporary with the kings. The names of most of these kings are found to be spelled on their own monuments, or in documents from the time in which they reigned in the same manner that they are spelled in the documents of the Old Testament. (page 64, **A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament**, Moody Press, Chicago, Illinois, copyright 1959).

Commenting on Daniel, Ezra, and Esther, Wilson said,

Thus we see that every one of the 22 consonants composing the names of the kings of Persia mentioned in the Bible has been transmitted correctly to us over a space 2300 or 2400 years. It may be added that in no other non-Persian documents are they so accurately transliterated. (*ibid.*, page 69)

To conclude this point hear Wilson again:

Thus we find that in 143 cases of transliteration from Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian and Moabite into Hebrew and in 40 cases of the opposite, or 184 in all, the evidence shows that for 2300 to 3900 years the text of the proper names in the Hebrew Bible has been transmitted with the most minute accuracy. (*ibid.*, page 71)

No stronger evidence for the substantial accuracy of the Old Testament records could possibly be imagined than this collection of names of kings. (*ibid.*, page 75)

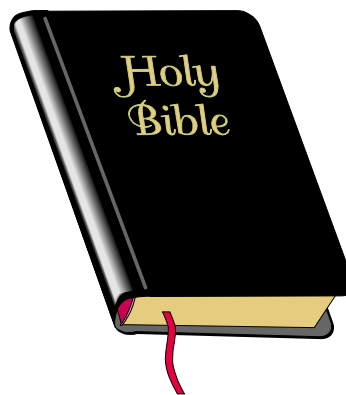
The Bible accurately records numerology, geography, history, topography, genealogy, as well as lessons, miracles, teaching, and ritual — AND THERE IS NO REASON TO DISBELIEVE ANY PART OF IT!

- BECAUSE *there is absolutely no promise in the Bible that there will be on-going revelations* given from God to mankind, but that it is a complete and finished statement. Jesus said His words that He spoke "are spirit, and *they* are life" (**John 6:63**); that His word spoken, if anyone rejects it, "will judge him in the last day" (**John 12:48**); that all nations must be taught "to observe all things that I have commanded you" (**Matthew 28:20**). Jesus never anticipated that there will be any other revelation that superseded the one He gave through His apostles, to whom Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to "teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (**John 14:26**). Any claimant of Holy Spirit gifts, real or imagined, can only "acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord" (**1 Corinthians 14:37**). It is only by this written word of God all are challenged to: "Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Prove yourselves" (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). Paul commanded Timothy to "Preach the word" (**2 Timothy 4:2**). There never was any question as to which "word" Paul meant.

□ BECAUSE *in each passage where sins are listed, there is a contextual point* being made and the list of sins become illustrations of that point. ALSO the very arrangement and order of the lists gives another contextual explanation of the sins. AND to remind all men for all time that the line God has drawn between truth and error, godliness and ungodliness, spirit and the flesh, or spiritual- and carnal-mindedness will never be diminished nor forgotten. Regardless of who obeys or ignores these sins, GOD WILL HOLD EVERYONE ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS/HER VIOLATIONS OF HIS WILL. Jesus Christ therefore becomes of great value to everyone that realizes his/ her patterns of disobedience and repents and turns to Him. Without this knowledge of personal sin, none would heed Jesus' command to every creature: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (**Mark 16:16**)

The very wording of the passages selected will help us see deeply into the pit of Hell with the uncovering of human behavior that caused Jesus to die on the cross. God is Friend to everyone who listens and heeds, and is Foe to all who live in unbelief (**Romans 2:1-11; 11:22**). God never condemns righteousness and only the Devil would claim that God does (**cf Genesis 3:1-13**). The Devil always makes men too sensitive to the light of God's word so that they will not obey it (**John 3:18-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**).

May this study open yet another door of understanding within and without the body of Christ is my prayer.





GOD, HELP US! - A Study of Sin by [John T Polk II](#)

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Romans 5:12-21: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned — (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*To deny there is such a thing as sin is to deny the truth of Scripture about Adam & Eve (**Genesis 1-3**) and the work of Jesus Christ (New Testament):*

- ◆ Since Adam, sin has existed in its many forms - since Jesus Christ proper correction has been offered for every form.
- ◆ Death to all men is the consequence of Adam's sin - all will be raised as a consequence of Jesus' 1st coming (**1 Corinthians 15:20-22**).
- ◆ Adam opened a "Pandora's Box" that all now can sin — and will — Jesus "opened a door to Heaven" that any can be saved — but many won't (**Galatians 1:3-5; John 5:38-40**).
- ◆ God's offer of salvation through Jesus = Grace, - anyone's refusal to accept by obedience = Sin (**John 3:16-21**)

**A CONTRAST OF THE FIRST AND SECOND ADAM SHOWS
SIN'S UNCHANGING NATURE:**

I. Genesis 3:1-13 Shows the **Corruption of Sin(s)**;

- A. **Eve varied God's Word** every way possible, for she:
1. Took from God's Word by omitting "freely" (**Genesis 2:16; 3:2**)
This makes **God's Promise** less full of blessing.
 2. Adding to God's Word "nor shall you touch it" (**Genesis 2:17; 3:3**)
This makes **God's Command** more difficult to keep.
 3. Altering God's Word changing "surely" to "lest" (**Genesis 2:17; 3:3**)
This makes **God's Punishment** probable instead of certain.
- B. **Jesus COUNTERED SIN** every way possible for He knew **"It is written"** and in each temptation did **NOT** subtract, add, or alter (**Matthew 4:1-11**).
- C. **Eve violated God's Word** every way possible, for she selfishly:
1. Lusted in the **flesh** - "good for food" (**Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:16**)
 2. Lusted with the **eyes** - "pleasant to the eyes" (**Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:16**)
 3. Was **proud with life** - "desirable to make wise" (**Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:16**)
- D. **Jesus CONTESTED SIN** every way possible for He **Hungered** but refused to turn stones to bread (cf #C1), refused to dare angels to save Him (cf #C2), and refused to be swayed by the Devil's "offer" of all kingdoms of the world (cf #C3 & **Luke 4:1-13**).

II. Genesis 3:14-21 Shows the **Consequences of Sin(s)**;

- A. The Serpent, Eve, and Adam were cursed in this life
1. The serpent must go on its belly and be hated by men
 2. Woman lost pain-free childbearing and equal authority with men
 3. Man lost "work-free" world, no-till gardening, "no sweat" life
- B. Everyone who came from them would likewise find hardship.

III. Genesis 3:22-24 Shows the **Control of Sin(s)**

1. Mankind now had experienced sin and
2. Could no longer be in God's Presence with sin (**1 John 1:5**) and
3. Must follow God's Instructions for access to life again

WORDS FOR "SIN" SHOW VARIOUS WAYS TO UNDERSTAND ITS WAYS:

I. Romans 5:12-21 Why So Many Words for the Same Act?

- A. **"Sin"** (Greek *hamartia*) — "a failing to hit the mark" (**Romans 3:9; 6:1,6,11; Romans 7:7; 2 Corinthians 5:21**)
- B. **"Transgression"** (Greek *parabaseos*) — "a disregarding, step across" (**Romans 2:23; 4:15; Galatians 3:19; 1 Timothy 2:14; Hebrews 2:2; 9:15**)
- C. **"Offense"** (Greek *paraptoma*) — "a lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness" (**Matthew 6:14,15; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Galatians 6:1; James 5:16**)
- D. **"Disobedience"** (Greek *parakoe*) — "unwillingness to hear" (**Romans 5:19; 2 Corinthians 10:6; Hebrews 2:2**)
- E. **One sinful act by Adam & Eve involved every manner in which God's Law could have been broken. A prism shows "white" light involves every color of the rainbow – so "sin" can involve a person in every manner of violating God's Law, hence may be described as "dark" (a.k.a. the absence of light (cf John 3:19-21).**

II. Other New Testament Descriptions (refer to the Greek):

- A. **John 9:41** — willful ignorance
- B. **Romans 3:23** — "fall short"
- C. **1 John 3:4** — "lawlessness"
- D. **1 John 5:17** — "All unrighteousness"
- E. **James 4:17** — "knows to do good and does not do it"
- F. **2 Thessalonians 1:8** — "do not know God, and ... do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"
- G. **Mark 12:28-31** — no love for God or man
- H. **Mark 16:16** — "he who does not believe"

III. Old Testament Words:

- A. "Sin" (*Hebrew Chatha*) — "to miss the mark, failure, coming short" (**Leviticus 4:2; 5:15; Numbers 15:28**)
- B. "Distress" (*Hebrew 'avah*) — "to be bent or crooked, wrong" (**Isaiah 21:3; Lamentation 3:9; Esther 1:16; 2 Samuel 19:19; Proverbs 12:8**)
- C. "Toil" (*Hebrew 'amal*) — "to make life a burden, travail" (**Genesis 41:51; Job 3:10; 5:6,7; 7:3; Psalm 90:10; Isaiah 53:11**)
- D. "Unjust" (*Hebrew 'aval*) — (like "evil", "ill") "want of integrity, iniquity" (**Psalm 43:1; Proverbs 29:27; Leviticus 19:15,35; Isaiah 59:3**)
- E. "Transgress" (*Hebrew 'Avar*) — "to cross over" (**Psalm 17:3; Hosea 6:7; Hosea 8:1**)
- F. "Evil" (*Hebrew ra'*) — "breaking up, ruin, course of injury to all" (**Genesis 2:17; Psalm 141:5; Ecclesiastes 7:14**)
- G. "Rebelled" (*Hebrew Pasha'*) — "revolt, refuse subjection, transgress" (**Psalm 51:13; Proverbs 28:21; 10:12,19; 28:13; Genesis 31:36; 50:17; Hosea 8:1**)
- H. "Wicked" (*Hebrew Rasha'*) — "the activity, tossing, confusion in which they live and cause other to live" (**Isaiah 57:20,21; Job 3:17**)
- I. "Trespass" (*Hebrew Ma'al*) — "unfaithfulness, breach of trust" (**Leviticus 5:15; Leviticus 6:2; Joshua 7:1; 22:20,16; 2 Chronicles 26:18; 28:22; 33:19; Ezra 9:2,4; Nehemiah 13:27; Ezekiel 14:13; 15:8; 18:24; 39:23**)
- J. "Nothing" (*Hebrew Aven*) — "vanity, naught, conduct ending unprofitably" (**Amos 5:5; Hosea 4:15; 5:8; 10:5,8; Job 15:35; Proverbs 22:8**)
- K. "Guilty" (*Hebrew sham*) — "omission, ignorance, negligence" (**Leviticus 4:13,22,27; 5:2,3,4,5,6,15,17**)

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Life Without Love by [John T Polk II](#)

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Proverbs 6:16-19: These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

I. Life With Love Involves:

The relationship of a person's life to the presence of God in it when he said:

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (**1 John 4:7**)

The passage in Proverbs shows what kind of things one does who does not know God! Jesus Christ, the "greater than Solomon," said:

"But I know you, that you have not the love of God in you." (**John 5:42**)

People who love the LORD "with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind," and "your neighbor as yourself" (**Luke 10:27**), have lives that reflect the love of God in them. Conversely, those who do not know what love is also demonstrate that lack in their lives. The litmus test of any action to determine whether or not it is one of love is found in **Romans 13:10**:

Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

ANY ACTION THAT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE HARM IT MAY DO TO ANOTHER IS NOT OUT OF LOVE! Drunk drivers, drug abusers, adulterers, "free-sex advocates", child abusers (whether sexual or physical or verbal, it matters not), "church splitters", false teachers (whether atheistic or agnostic, denominational or Christian), gossips and tale-bearers (whether on the phone, email, "snail mail", in print, on the air, or other medium), CAN NEVER BE SAID TO BE THOSE WHO LOVE THE LORD AND MAN! There is "no joy in heaven" over wickedness (**Psalms 5:4-6**).

Interestingly, there appears to be a parallel between this list in Proverbs of those things hated by God, and the "beatitudes" listed by Jesus in His "mountain sermon" in Matthew which show a contrasted attitude that is acceptable to God:

Proverbs 6:16-19:

Matthew 5:3-9 :

1) A proud look [Instead of overlooking our sins, we are humbled by them]	1) the poor in spirit
2) A lying tongue [Instead of defending sins with untruths, we have godly sorrow for them]	2) those who mourn
3) Hands that shed innocent blood [Instead of usurping God's Authority over life, we submit to His Rules]	3) the meek
4) A heart that devises wicked plans [Instead of filling our heart with evil, we fill it with God's Holy Word]	4) those who hunger and thirst after righteousness
5) Feet that are swift in running to evil [Instead of quickly participating in sin, we quickly respond to the sinful with mercy]	5) the merciful
6) A false witness who speaks lies [Instead of falsely speaking of others, we may speak with purity about them]	6) pure in heart
7) And one who sows discord among brethren [Instead of disharmony, we promote that which makes peace with God & His Children]	7) peacemakers

*Could it be that God is letting it be known that He will not tolerate those within His Kingdom who refuse to respect His Law of love? The church of Christ is "the kingdom of the Son of His love" (**Colossians 1:13**). If God hates these soul-stoppers, but loves those who repent of them and change, then *how can the church of Christ either be unimportant, or need to be composed of people who refuse to submit to His Will?**

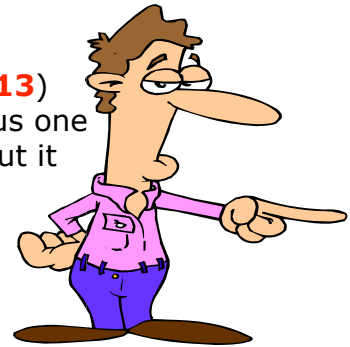
Also notice that **Proverbs 6:16-19** is a repetition of sentiment in **Proverbs 6:12-15** where the penalty is "self-destruction". Then it is repeated to show that it incurs God's Rejection as well. The double message should be that not only are these seven behaviors rejected by God, they are reprehensible to right-thinking individuals on earth as well! (cf **Zechariah 7:8-11; 8:16-17**)

The song "This Little Christian Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let It Shine" may be firmly rooted in the sentiment expressed in **Proverbs 6:16-19**, for it shows that sin manifests itself by what the body does: eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet. This concept is surely borne out by Scripture, notably **Romans 6:12-22**.

II. Loveless Living Includes:

I. "A proud look" aka "haughty eyes"

- A. God will not endure It (**Psalm 101:5; Isaiah 2:5-17**)
- B. God humbles the proud (**Psalm 18:27; Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5**)
- C. Fear of the LORD will hate such an attitude (**Proverbs 8:13**)
 - 1. It is hypocritical for one generation to "judge" a previous one
 - a. **Proverbs 30:13** – we weren't there to know all about it
 - b. **Matthew 23:29-33** – we follow their practices
 - 2. **EVEN GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE NOT EXEMPT!!**
 - a. Pharaoh (**Exodus 9:16**)
 - b. Haman (**Esther 3:1-2; 5:9-14; 7:1-10**)
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar (**Daniel 4:28-37**)
 - d. Herod (**Acts 12:20-24**)
 - 3. **A head "emptied" by pride has nothing to hold it down!!**



II. "A lying tongue"

- A. Abomination to the LORD (**Proverbs 12:22**)
- B. Not One Will Be Excused (**Revelation 21:8** -"all liars")
- C. Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, (**2 Kings 5:20-27**) is an example for:
 - 1. Those who take up collections for "miracles" from God
 - 2. Those who "say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars" (**Revelation 2:2**)
 - 3. Those who say, "Look, here is the Christ!" or "There!" do not believe it" (**Matthew 24:23, 24-26**)
 - 4. Those who claim to be "called of God" in preaching but misrepresent what the Bible actually teaches (**2 Peter 2:1-3; James 2:14-26; Mark 16:15-16**)
- D. Ananias & Sapphira in the church (**Acts 5:1-11**) should NOT be tolerated to further any "good work" (whether college, preacher school, publication, orphan home, *et.al.*) OR to further the church (preaching less or more than "the whole counsel of God" - **Acts 20:27**)
 - 1. Those who claim to preach the whole Gospel when they preach less
 - 2. Those who Falsely claim to be "faithful" and have abandoned the Lord Who Bought them in clear violation of **2 Peter 2:1-3**.
 - 3. Those who claim to be "sound in the faith" while maintaining ungodly attitudes against all who are not in complete agreement with everything they understand and violate **Romans 14:1-13**.

III. "Hands that shed innocent blood"

- A. Never has been allowed
 - 1. Not from the first murderer, Cain (**Genesis 4:1-15; 1 John 3:11-13**)
 - 2. Repeated in the shadow of the ark (**Genesis 9:6**)
 - 3. Repeated in Jewish Law from Sinai (**Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17**)
 - 4. Repeated in Christian Law (**Romans 13:1-4**)
 - 5. The reason justifying "capital punishment" (**Numbers 35:29-34**)

- B. Emphasis on the word "innocent" for it surely includes:
 1. Babies - whether in the womb, partially out of the womb, or completely delivered from the womb! (**Romans 9:10-11**)
 2. Christians (**Revelation 6:10; 13:10; 16:4-7; 19:1-2**)
 3. Hence, those not deserving to die, not those who should!
- C. Examples, even of Government Leaders, who killed the innocent:
 1. **2 Kings 21:11-16; 24:1-4; Jeremiah 15:3-4** – Manasseh
 2. **Matthew 23:31-36** – the Jewish religious leaders were to be held accountable for all the blood of the righteous from Abel to Zechariah
 3. **Luke 13:1-3** - Pilate mingling Galileans' blood with sacrifices
 4. **Matthew 27:20-26** – Sinners for the death of Jesus Christ (**cf 1 Peter 3:18**)

IV. "A heart that devises wicked plans"

- A. Jonadab (**2 Samuel 13:1-22**)
- B. Ahithophel (**2 Samuel 16:15-14; 17: 23**)
- C. Spend their "spare time" thinking up wrongdoing (**Micah 2:1-5**)
 1. Ways to separate people from their houses and lands
 2. Ways to separate people from their own inheritances
 3. Sounds like even unjust government(s) classify here!!!

LAWS OF THE LAND ARE NOT ALWAYS THE LAW OF GOD!

- D. Some are "unbalanced" in moral judgment (**2 Peter 2:14**)
 1. Children whose only teachers are at school where Bible morals are not allowed to be taught;
 2. Children whose only examples are on TV "sitcoms," or movies, or music;
 3. Children whose only rules are learned from video games;
 4. Children whose only worship is in "church activities" which are designed only for their own pleasure and not God's Glory;
 5. Adults who were such children.

Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, Have fellowship with You? They gather together against the life of the righteous, And condemn innocent blood. (**Psalm 94:20-21, Psalm 22-23**)

V. "Feet that are swift in running to evil"

- A. Instead of "ambulance chasers" after the fact, they will be the first on the scene of evil-doing.
- B. Instead of being waked up in the middle of the night to learn what has been done, they will be sneaking in before being caught doing it.
- C. **1 Thessalonians 5:4-7** shows the line of behavior of those walking in darkness and those walking in the light. Why would Christians want to be included in the activities of those walking in the darkness?



- D. If a Christian seems to be constantly in the “wrong company” who put him/her there? (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)
- E. Often associated with shedding innocent blood (**Isaiah 59:6-10**)
- F. Typical of sinful behavior (**Romans 3:9-19**)

VI. “A false witness *who speaks lies*”

Different from lies, for these condemn others without truth, just as Jesus Christ was condemned (Matthew 28:11-15; Luke 23:105)

- A. **Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20**
- B. **Proverbs 17:15** – causes corruption of any “Justice System”
- C. **Deuteronomy 1:16-17; 16:18-20** – Justice is NOT served by all courts
- D. **Exodus 23:1-9** – part of the “code of ethics” of a good society
- E. **John 7:51**—Even under Moses’ Law, the individual had the right to a fair trial
- F. **Deuteronomy 19:15-21** – False witnesses should pay by being penalized with the same penalty with which the one they witnessed against was condemned
- G. Shows no fear of God (**Malachi 3:5**)

VII. "And one who sows discord among brethren"

A. Listed among the worst of sins

1. Applies to Christians, as well as "denominationalists"

- a. If, as they claim, denominations are all a part of the church of Christ, then for them to preach any denominational doctrine is condemned, for that which comes between "brethren" is hated by God. They should abandon all denominational recognition and only be in the church of Christ to be acceptable to God. If not, why not?
- b. If, as some brethren teach, they are preaching nothing but "the whole counsel of God", then they must abandon whatever they are preaching and practicing that creates dissension and denominations among us.
- c. If they preach some "identifying doctrine" that causes a "brotherhood within the brotherhood", they must surrender such teaching for God hates those who teach as they are teaching!

2. It is evident that such are:

- a. Carnal-minded, not spiritual (**1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Jude 19**)
- b. Serve their own selfishness, not the Lord (**Romans 16:17-18**)
- c. Keep brethren from being "perfectly joined together" (**1 Corinthians 1:10**)
- d. Divide brethren who would follow "the same rule" (**Philippians 3:16**)

3. There is no justification or excuse for this kind of behavior or doctrine:

- a. No orphan home;
- b. No preachers' school or World Bible Correspondence Course;
- c. No college, seminary, or theological institute;
- d. No "liberal" preacher;
- e. No "conservative" preacher;
- f. No political party or government affiliation;
- g. No Masonic Lodge, or similar "brotherhood"
- h. No denominational association;
- i. No "liberation movement"
- j. 10) No "reform movement"

CAN JUSTIFY DIVIDING THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST OR CHRISTIANS!



God is love and His Sacrifice of love purchased the church to make the way of love available to the unloving who repent and turn to Him. Are you one who will put love in a loveless life?



Keeping Christians “Uncommon” by [John T Polk II](#)

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Mark 7:1-23: Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. Now when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is with unwashed hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. *When they come* from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold *like* the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, hypocrites, as it is written: **This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.** For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”

He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, **Honor your father and your mother; and, He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.** But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban’ -- (that is, a gift to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

When He had called all the multitude to *Himself*, He said to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand: There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!”

When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?”

And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

I. The Pharisees had raised the issue of "How to Keep Pure" **Mark 7:1-13**

A. They kept "the tradition of the elders" (**Mark 7:3-5**):

1. Which considered all others than themselves "common;"
2. Which insisted on hand-washing to maintain their own purity;
3. Which was NOT found in the Word of God (the Law of Moses);
4. Which was obeyed though it contradicted what Jesus taught;
5. Which condemned others who did not practice it exactly.

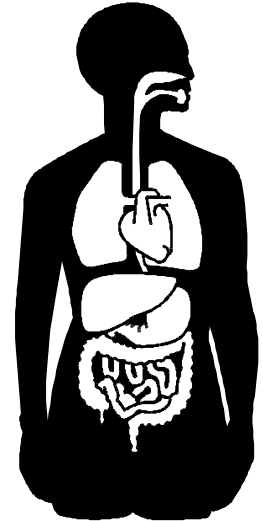
B. Jesus exposed their error (**Mark 7:6-13**)

1. Their practice was "hypocrisy," or a mere external show;
 - a. This is exactly like hypocrites who emphasize outward "show" for sincerity: washing utensils and hands but neglecting to cleanse their hearts (**Matthew 6:1-4, 5-8, 16-18**)
 - b. **Religion** of "externals" made to appear by "self-imposed," "false humility, and neglect of the body" (**Colossians 2:20-23**) is of **NO profit to a Christian!** Hence:
 - 1) wearing special clothing to "look" pure (collars turned backward, Mennonite/ Amish, monk/ nun, turban and specially-cut beard, robes, *et.al.*);
 - 2) making the sign of the cross;
 - 3) counting beads for prayers;
 - 4) shaving the head and leaving a long ponytail;
 - 5) special "holy days;"
 - 6) high steeples or other architectural features;**NONE OF THESE DEMONSTRATE GREATER SPIRITUALITY THAN TO NOT DO SO!**
2. Their hypocrisy had been prophesied in **Isaiah 29:13**; **Their attitude toward God's Law was to:**
 - a. "reject" (NKJV "lay aside") (**Mark 7:8**) – send away from one's self, omit, neglect
 - b. "reject" (**Mark 7:9**) – refuse to consider
 - c. "make of none effect" (**Mark 7:13**) – not binding
3. This was their common practice (**Mark 7:8, 14**)
 - a. Honor Parents (**Exodus 20:12; 21:17**) was "countered" by using God's Law of sacrifice against it. In **Leviticus 1:2**, the Hebrew term "korban" was used of whatever was devoted to God for sacrifice. Thus, to avoid obeying God's Law to "honor father and mother," they simply said what they were going to use for their parents had been designated as a sacrifice to God. Therefore, they nullified obedience to one command of God by using another command to make it impossible to keep.
 - b. This "Phariseeism" is followed TODAY when we:
 - 1) Work to earn BUT set aside worship of God!
 - 2) Have children BUT without marriage!
 - 3) Marry BUT ignore the rules that make it work!
 - 4) Believe the Bible BUT nullify our teaching others!
 - 5) Have Faith BUT neglect the works also!
 - 6) Worship God BUT resort to pagan superstitions and rituals!

II. Jesus raised the REAL issue of "How to Keep Pure" (Mark 7:14-23)

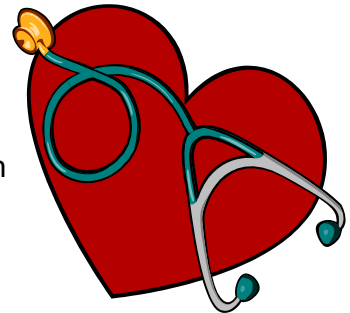
A. Jesus showed this was NOT a matter of what enters a person (Mark 7:14-20)

1. Nothing from outside can "defile" one before God (Mark 7:15)
 - a. Greek *koinos* make common, profane, unhallowed (cf 1 Timothy 4:1-5)
 - b. God will not allow such to be in His Holy City, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-27)
 - c. Food passes through the human "tube" without causing such defilement of the heart (Mark 7:18-19; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; Romans 14:14)



B. What emanates from the heart corrupts (Mark 7:21-23; Matthew 12:34-35)

1. "evil thoughts"
 - a. Greek *kakov* – bad nature, base; (Philippians 3:2; Matthew 21:41; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
 - b. Greek *dialogismos* – self-deliberation, purpose; (Romans 14:1; 1 Corinthians 3:20; Romans 1:21; James 2:4)
 - c. IF THE "ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS", THEN IS "THE ROAD TO HEAVEN PAVED WITH EVIL THOUGHTS"?
2. adulteries
3. fornications
4. murders
5. thefts – Greek *klepto* – steal what belongs to another
 - a. Matthew 6:19-20 – whatever is saved can be stolen
 - b. John 10:10 – main purpose for thief coming
 - c. Ephesians 4:28 – work is an honest remedy
 - d. Prisons should be work/ repayment centers (cf Leviticus 6:1-7)
6. covetousness – Greek *pleonexia* – greedy desire to have more
 - a. Luke 12:15 – the purpose of life is more than this
 - b. Ephesians 4:19 – typical of the unclean (Galatians 5:19)
 - c. Colossians 3:5 – is idolatry, or grasping for the seen (cf 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 2:5 – masked by "flattering words"
7. wickedness – depravity, iniquity, "no law"
 - a. Matthew 22:18 – obvious in those asking "trick" questions
 - b. Luke 11:39 – cannot be hidden by "washing dishes"
 - c. 1 Corinthians 5:8 – SHOULD NOT BE IN "CHURCH"
 - d. Ephesians 6:12 – ought to be an external "enemy"
8. deceit – bait, craft, guile, "let's go fishing"
 - a. Matthew 26:4 – used by Jewish leaders to "catch" Jesus
 - b. John 1:47 – without it, Nathaniel followed Jesus
 - c. Acts 13:10 – full of it to pervert truth [false teachers today]
 - d. 1 Peter 2:22 – JESUS NEVER HAD IT! [it should never be used for "personal evangelism"!]
9. lasciviousness (NKJV "lewdness")



10. **an evil eye** –

a. the eye

- 1) **Matthew 6:22** – the “lamp of the body” or “window of the soul”
- 2) **Mark 9:47** – can cause one to sin (**1 John 2:16**)
- 3) **1 Corinthians 12:14-18** – the whole church should not be one

b. full of hardships, wicked, bad, devilish

- 1) **Matthew 5:37; 6:13; 13:19, 38** – destroying work in kingdom
- 2) **Hebrews 3:12** – a heart of unbelief
- 3) **James 2:4** – prejudice against others
- 4) **1 Timothy 6:3-4** – suspicious [not unlike brotherhood “watchdogs”]



11. **blasphemy** – reviling, slander, speech injurious to another’s good name

- a. **Mark 3:28-30** – claiming Jesus’ miracles were done by the power of demons (**Mark 3:22-27**)
- b. **Ephesians 4:31** – should be put away from Christians for good
- c. **1 Timothy 6:4** – is no way to “stand for the truth”
- d. **Jude 9** – is NO way to even talk to the Devil!!!
- e. **2 Peter 2:9-11** – angels don’t talk this way!

12. **pride** – haughtiness, arrogance

- a. from Greek – showing oneself above others
- b. **James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5** – God resists those with this attitude
- c. Be not proud of race, face, place, grace

13. **foolishness** – senselessness, thoughtlessness

- a. **2 Corinthians 11:2, 7, 16, 21** – Paul thought his boasting to make a point was this, but nonetheless could be a “figure of speech”
- b. from Greek without reason, stupid, showing no sense
 - 1) **Luke 11:40** – Jesus’ term for Pharisees’ dishwashing doctrine
 - 2) **Luke 12:20** – God’s term for covetous person (**Luke 12:13-34**)
 - 3) **1 Corinthians 15:36** – Paul’s term for not believing in resurrection
 - 4) **2 Corinthians 12:6** – countered by using the truth (**Ephesians 5:17**)
 - 5) **1 Peter 2:15-16** - CRITICIZING CHRISTIANS IS STUPIDITY
(cf **James 4:11-12; 5:9**)



Life Without the Holy Spirit by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

Galatians 5:13-26: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

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; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

I. The Spirit has ordained:

A. *Liberty* – license limited by love (**Galatians 5:13**)

B. *Love* – all the law (**Galatians 5:14-15** cf **Matthew 7:12; 22:34-40**)

1. Why did Paul write of The Spirit's work, if the written word was not essential?
1 Corinthians 14:37
2. Wrong works are proof the individual needs to learn more Scripture.
3. Without The Spirit, one never develops from within, which is necessary

C. *Life* – positive goal avoids negative pitfalls (**Galatians 5:16-21**)

D. *Loveliness* – fruit shows the kind of tree (**Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 7:15-20**)

II. The works of the flesh are manifest/evident

A. The Expense of Experience

1. **Adultery** – Greek **μοιχεια** – unlawful sexual intercourse with another’s spouse
 - a. By act (**John 8:3**; **Leviticus 20:10**; **Deuteronomy 22:22**; **Deuteronomy 5:18**; **Exodus 20:14**; **James 4:4**)
 - b. By attitude (**Matthew 5:27-30**; **2 Peter 2:14**)
 - c. By acceptance in marriage (**Matthew 5:31-32**; **Mark 10:11-12**; **Luke 16:18**; **Hebrews 13:4**)
 - d. By apostasy (**Jeremiah 3:6-11**)
2. **Fornication** – Greek **πορνεια** – improper sexual conduct in general
 - a. Disregard for God’s Law of Safe Sex (**Genesis 2:18-25**)
 - b. Designed for heathen backgrounds (**Acts 15:20, 29**; **1 Corinthians 6:12**)
 - c. Prostitution; modeling sex – whether on-screen or off-screen; abuses in marriage
3. **Uncleanness** – Greek **ακαθαρσια** – without cleansing, unwashed
 - a. Whitewashing doesn’t change inner rottenness (**Matthew 23:27**)
 - b. Without pure motives (**1 Thessalonians 2:3**)
 - c. Willful waste (**Ephesians 4:19**; **5:3**; **1 Thessalonians 4:7**)
4. **Lasciviousness** – Greek **ασεληγεια** – without moral restraints, “anything goes”
 - a. Contrasted with having moral scruples (**Romans 13:13**; **1 Peter 4:3-4**)
 - b. Conduct of Sodom & Gomorrah (**2 Peter 2:6-7**)
 - c. Conduit of Christian ruin brought by false teachers (**2 Peter 2:1-2, 18**)

B. Ignorant Idolatry

1. **Idolatry** – Greek **ειδωλολατρευια** – worship or service to idols
 - a. Devotion lifestyle allowed by idols (**1 Corinthians 10:1-14**)
 - b. Dedication to the “Dollar” (**Colossians 3:5**)
2. **Witchcraft** – Greek **φαρμακεια** – the use or administering of drugs for spells
 - a. Relied upon by idolaters for “divine insight and power” (**Exodus 7:11, 22**; **Exodus 8:18**)
 - b. Ruined forever by The True God (**Revelation 21:8**)
 - c. Rx (prescribed medicine) is **not** condemned, unless it is persistently used to avoid moral decisions

C. Seven Steps to Schism

1. **Hatred** – Greek **εχθραι** - hostile, hating and opposing another

- a. Sinners' general attitude toward God (**Romans 5:10**;
Galatians 4:16)
- b. Satan's position and work against God (**Matthew 13:28, 39**)
- c. Saviour's general attitude toward the sinful (**James 4:4**;
1 Corinthians 15:25-26)



2. **Variance** – Greek **ερελις** - contention, strife, wrangling

- a. Evidence of carnality among brethren (**1 Corinthians 1:11-13**; **3:3**;
1 Timothy 6:3-5; **Titus 3:9**)
- b. Excused for "soundness" (**Philippians 1:15**)

3. **Emulations** – Greek **ζηλοι** – fervor, excitement in defending anything

- a. Approved when for the right thing (**John 2:13-17**; **2 Corinthians 7:9-11**;
Colossians 4:12-13)
- b. Awful when aimed at the church (**Philippians 3:6**; **Acts 13:45**)
- c. Arrogant when aimed away from one's self (**James 3:14-16**)

4. **Wrath** – Greek **θυμοι** – explosive anger, quickly subsiding, breathe violently

- a. Aggressive, even against Jesus! (**Luke 4:22-30**;
Acts 19:26-28)
- b. Apparently only God can properly control its expression
(**Romans 2:8**)
- c. Adverse effect on Christians (**Ephesians 4:31**;
Colossians 3:8; **2 Corinthians 12:20**)



5. **Strife** – Greek **εριθειαι** – electioneering, courting distinction, partisanship

- a. Personal interests must be kept aside in preaching (**Philippians 1:15-18**)
- b. Personalities must be kept down in "membering" (**Philippians 2:3**)
- c. Promotion of ANY GOOD WORK must not "lapse" into this.

6. **Seditious** – Greek **διχοστασιαι** – to stand apart, create two-parties

- a. There are NOT two sides to truthful obedience (**Romans 16:17-19**)
- b. There is NO spirituality in doctrinal splits (**1 Corinthians 3:3**)
- c. The church becomes worldly when it divides (**Galatians 5:20**)

7. **Heresies** – Greek **αιρεσεις** – capturing or choosing a particular tenet

- a. Choosing the lesser of evils is still evil (**2 Peter 2:1-2**)
- b. Combining with "the faithful" IS "SECTARIANISM"! (**Acts 5:17**; **15:5**;
Acts 26:5; **24:5,15**; **28:22**)
- c. Crucifixion occurs all over again (**1 Corinthians 11:19-20** cf
Hebrews 6:4-6)

D. There's No Stopping These Now

1. Destructive Sins

- a. **Envyings** – Greek φθονοι - pine away, wither, decay
- 1) Self-inflicted sickness over another's good (**Titus 3:3-7**)
 - 2) Short-sighted ambition (**Matthew 27:17-18, 21-23**)
 - 3) SHOULD NOT BE DIRECTED TOWARD OTHER BRETHREN!!
- b. **Murders** – Greek φονοι – slaughter of human life
- 1) ALONE CAN GOD direct this (**Joshua 7:1-26; Exodus 21:28-29; Exodus 22:18-20; Leviticus 22:18-20; Romans 13:1-4**)
 - 2) Always, God Has Said this crime must be met with death (**Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:1-4**)
 - 3) AMONG CHRISTIANS, THERE IS NO PERMITTING THIS!! (**Matthew 5:21-26, 43-48; Romans 12:17-21**)
 - 4) Attitude Counts! (**1 John 3:11-15; 2:7-11; 3:16-19; 4:7-13, 16-21**)

2. Drinking

- a. **Drunkeness** – Greek μεθαι – softening up, loosening of judgment
- 1) Causes cares to be too great (**Luke 21:34**)
 - 2) Cerebral dullness (**Romans 13:13; Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35**)
 - 3) Certain amount not specified!
- b. **Revellings** – Greek κωμοι – riotous parade, obnoxious party
- 1) Late Night is made for "drunks" (**Romans 13:12-13; cf 1 Thessalonians 5:7**)
 - 2) Left-over looseness in a Christian (**1 Peter 4:1-4**)
 - 3) Listen, if you see one of these, you may be out too late at night!!

III. So Manifest is God's Judgment **Galatians 5:21**

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION **Galatians 5:22-26**



Unsafe in Any Time by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

2 Timothy 3:1-9: But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

The term "perilous" (**Greek** [χαλεποι](#)) means "dangerous, unsafe, hard to bear, troublesome." It only used in the New Testament again in **Matthew 8:28** to describe two demon-possessed men who were "**exceedingly fierce**, so that no one could pass that way." Easily, this word describes "hard living" even though the "times" may appear to be plentiful and bounteous. This word shows the true effort sin requires and makes Jesus' invitation the more acceptable when He said:

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (**Matthew 11:28-30**)

When those engaged in the sins listed in **1 Timothy** learn there is a better and easier way of life in Christ, they will be motivated to turn. It is this deep insight of God's Word into the human heart that clearly demonstrates its complete, verbal inspiration (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**; **Hebrews 4:12-13**). If the book *Unsafe At Any Speed* written fifty years ago caused close investigation into the automotive industry, surely **2 Timothy 3:1-9** should bring similar focus to present-day life-styles.

"The last days" in the New Testament referred to the 1st Century because God Was THEN ending His dealings with Israel as "chosen people of God." It was "the last days" for Israel to be God's chosen people!

IF THE LAST DAYS WERE NOT UNTIL THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THEN:

❑ **JESUS CHRIST HAS NOT PREACHED A WORD**, for:

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son. (**Hebrews 1:1-2**)

There is NO SAVIOR if “the last days” refers to the 21st Century!

❑ **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS NOT INSPIRED THE NEW TESTAMENT**, for, “It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh.” (**Joel 2:28**) The Apostle Peter, and the other 11 apostles said that the events on the first Pentecost after Jesus’ Resurrection were “what was spoken by the prophet Joel” (**Acts 2:16**). There is NO Bible revealed and confirmed if “the last days” refers to the 21st Century.

❑ **Therefore, if “the last days” only refers to the 21st Century, NO ONE HAS ANY VERSE FROM GOD ABOUT A:**

- ◆ “MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST”,
- ◆ “BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON”,
- ◆ “JESUS’ 2ND COMING”,
- ◆ “SIGNS OF THE 2ND COMING”,
- ◆ “BEING A CHRISTIAN”,
- ◆ “SALVATION BY THE CROSS”,
- ◆ “SALVATION BY FAITH”,
- ◆ “CHURCH OF CHRIST”,
- ◆ “BAPTISM”,
- ◆ “GIVING ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK”,
- ◆ “LORD’S SUPPER”,
- ◆ OR ANY DOCTRINE TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT!!!

Present-day “theology” is nothing but a denial of the doctrine of Christ, and THAT IS “ANTI-CHRIST”. (**1 John 4:1-3**)

❑ **AND THESE SINS HAVE NEVER BEEN COMMITTED**, Paul told Timothy that these sins were “characteristic” of “the last days.” THERE IS NO NEED TO BE SAVED FROM THESE SINS FOR 2000 YEARS if “the last days” refers to the 21st Century!

THE SINS OF 2 TIMOTHY 3 HANDICAPS PEOPLE BY GIVING THEM:

I. BLURRED VISION

- A. “Lovers of themselves” (**Greek φιλαυτοι**) – “too intent on one’s own interest, selfish” (only New Testament use)
1. Listing “acceptable” gifts for an occasion and NOT being content with anything else!
 2. **Cf Luke 12:15-21** – spending increase only for one’s own purposes
 3. **Cf Matthew 19:16-23** – NOT obeying God’s Command that hindered personal glory

B. "Lovers of money" (**Greek φιλαργυροι**) – "avaricious, greedy, tight-fisted"

1. **Luke 16:14** – Pharisees' attitude Jesus condemned (**Luke 16:1-13**)

2. More concern is over getting and keeping than investing in good and God.

3. When "It is the economy, stupid" is the motto of society – watch out!



C. "Boasters" (**Greek αλαζονες**) – "an empty pretender, wandering story-teller"

1. **Romans 1:30** – practiced by people without God or truth

2. Tavern-talk, school-secrets, table-trivia, factory "scat", media "insider-gossip"

3. Practiced by those with the least to say and greatest impression to make.

D. "Proud" (**Greek υπερηφανοι**) – "overestimate of one's means or merits"

E. "Blasphemers" (**Greek βλασφημοι**) – "slandorous, reproachful, abusive "

F. "Disobedient to parents" (**Greek γονευσιν απειθεις**) – "uncompliant, refusing to obey"

1. Under Moses' Law such people were to be stoned to death

(**Deuteronomy 21:18**)

2. It is disobedient to God's Law of home (Ephesians 6:1-4; cf Isaiah 30:9)

3. The attitude is of those who deny God (Titus 1:16)

4. Such attitude should be left in the world by Christians (Titus 3:3; Acts 26:19)

5. The worth of the parents is not under discussion but the dignity afforded them is.

6. CHILDREN ARE NOT BORN WITH THIS ATTITUDE, BUT ARE TAUGHT IT BY LAZY, IGNORANT, OR ABSENT PARENTS!

II. A Poor/ Weak Heart (look at what's missing - "a")

A. "Unthankful" (**Greek αχαριστοι**) – "ungracious, unpleasing"

1. **Luke 6:35** – Like God, their Father, Christians should not expect something in return for the good they do, BUT a sign of salvation is to "thank God" for one's blessings since He is the Source of them (**Genesis 12:1**; **James 1:17**)

2. **These too rude, uncouth, and without social grace to say a heartfelt "Thank You" to anyone (especially God!) who does something for them.**

3. The two most powerful words in the human language are: "Thank You"

B. "Unholy" (**Greek ανοοιοι**) – "impious, wicked"

1. **1 Timothy 1:9-10** associates it with lawless, insubordinate, ungodly, sinners, profane, murders of fathers and mothers, manslayers, sodomites, kidnappers, liars, perjurers, and anything else contrary to sound doctrine. There is no "good company for it.

2. **Greek οσιον**– "undefiled by sin, religiously observing every moral obligation, pious"

3. Used of elders (**Titus 1:8**) – not as "perfection" but devoted in duty to God

4. **Hebrews 7:26** – describes Jesus as our High Priest

5. **Acts 2:27**; **13:35** – Jesus is the perfect example of this attitude

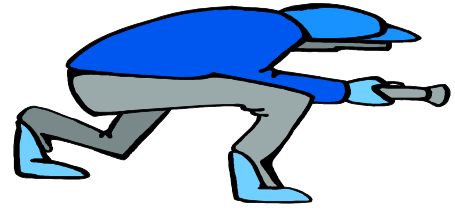
6. Hence, "unholy" describes those who don't care about serving God!

- C. "Unloving" (**Greek** ἀστοργοι) – "without love of kindred, alienated from family"
1. **Romans 1:31** – clearly shows in those who have given up God in their lives and disregard Him as entirely as is humanly possible (**cf Romans 1:18-32**).
 2. *This is found in practitioners of abortion, child abuse, spouse abuse, child/spouse neglect, day care for newborns.*
 3. This is the attitude of males & females who "breed" with absolutely no commitment or agreement to provide for the welfare of those who are thus "bred"!
- D. "Unforgiving" (**Greek** ἀσπινδοι) – "without a treaty or covenant, truce breakers, unable to be persuaded to enter into an agreement, implacable"
1. **Romans 1:31** – places this with those actions by those ungoverned by God
 2. Either males or females who refuse to become Christians, or to marry for their heterosexual relationships, or abide by their contracts or credit agreements, are guilty of this sinful attitude.
- E. "Slanderers" (**Greek** διαβολοι) – "false accusers, prone to slander [without truth]"
1. **Used of the Devil Himself (Matthew 4:1, 5, 8, 11; 13:39; John 13:2; Ephesians 4:27)**
 2. English "diabolical" indicates the lack of desire for truth in word or deed.
 3. **This directly associates one with the work of the Devil!**
 4. Either orally or in print, this is designed to undermine confidence in others.
- F. "Without self-control" (**Greek** ἀκρατεις) – "intemperate, showing no boundaries" (only New Testament reference. But see ἀκρασιας- incontinence, **Matthew 23:25; 1 Corinthians 7:5**)
1. from the **Greek** κρατος means "power, might, force, strength, dominion" hence it shows someone maintains authority and ability over one's own self.
 2. **Either individuals or societies can be "out of control."**
- G. "Brutal" (**Greek** ἀνημεροι) – "not tame, savage, fierce"
1. When "spectator sports" center on savaging another person's being, it is time to notice one's distance from God. "All out kick-boxing", boxing, and the appearance of brutality in wrestling are some examples feeding the minds of our society.
 2. Bloody sports or "slice & dice" movies or such like do nothing but encourage this.
 3. "Cartoon" violence is NOT always associated with "reality" like these other activities.
- H. "Despisers of good" (**Greek** ἀφιλαγαθοι) – "opposed to goodness and good men"
1. When those doing good and obeying Bible Rules are the ones punished by words, deeds, lawsuits, violent attacks, then people are showing their hatred for God by manifesting it against those who represent His Ways.
 2. Shooting prayer groups at schools, "raiding" church assemblies, stealing from churches, burning down church buildings, etc. **ARE "HATE CRIMES" THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CHOOSES NOT TO INCLUDE IN THEIR LEGISLATION.**
 3. THE FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT **NOT** USUALLY INCLUDED TODAY IS AS "God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil" (**Romans 13:4**).

III. Air Heads

A. "Traitors" (Greek προδοται) – "a betrayer"

1. **Luke 6:16** – It is used of Judas Iscariot "who became" one. This is NOT genetic!
2. **Acts 7:52** – It describes the Jewish history from the Old Testament which explains why they willingly participated in betraying Jesus Christ Who Came as one of their own. (**John 1:11-12**)
3. Peter, though not using this word, described this kind of Christian in his letter of **2 Peter 2:1-3, 18-22**.
4. Christians can be the worst enemy for destroying the church of Christ there is!



B. "Headstrong" (Greek προπετεις) – "headlong, falling forwards, rash, reckless"

1. **Acts 19:36** – The city clerk stilled "mob frenzy" with his reasoned words
2. **Proverbs 10:14** – Foolish people are rash in words but the wise are not.
3. **Proverbs 13:3** – Destruction is to those who open wide their lips.
4. The present surge to push the church of Christ into practices and doctrines that are neither wise, Scriptural, nor reasoned is but the "mouthing" of fools who destroy.

C. "Haughty" (Greek τετυφωμενοι) – "blind with pride or conceit, puffed up, besotted"

1. **1 Timothy 3:6** – NOT to be an attitude of any elder lest he be like the Devil
2. **1 Timothy 6:4** – the attitude of those who seek to appear knowledgeable of the Bible when in reality, they are ignorant of it.
3. **Many a business meeting or Bible class have consumed much time with these individuals!**
4. **These people don't realize that people of substance are not impressed by the "substance of people."** Christians look not on the outward (**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**).

D. "Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (Greek φιληδονοι μαλλον η φιλοθεοι) – "philos + hedone"

1. This is "living for the moment," "doing your own thing," and "no fear,"
2. This attitude was promoted by Ernest Hemingway, who shotgunned himself to death. It seems strange that his books (and other authors like him) are required reading in public schools but no one seems to notice the suicide rate among school-going teenagers is among the highest of any age group.
3. In our era of "Extreme Sports" where anything is to be tried, someone ought to be reminded that "thrills, excitement, and adrenaline rushes" are NOT the most important part of life.
4. Why is it that so many churches seem to want to adapt worship and "youth activities" to those whose main goal in life is "loving pleasure rather than loving God"?

E. "Having a form of godliness but denying its power" (Greek μορφωσιν

ευσεβειας) – "the mere form, semblance"

1. It was possible for Jewish Christians to emphasize the proper "shape" of religion while losing the real "heart" of it (**Romans 2:20-23**).
2. "Godliness" (Greek ευσεβεια) – "always in the Bible for piety toward God" (**Acts 3:12; 1 Timothy 2:2; 4:7-8; 6:5-11; 2 Peter 1:3, 6-7**)
 - a. One may "go through the motions of a Christian life and worship" and be lost unless there is a return to the real reasons for all we do.
 - b. We should NOT attend worship purely for our own enjoyment, but in order to know that we have been pleasing to God.**
 - c. We must NOT allow others to make us place more emphasis on "form" (rites, rituals, etc. such as "hand-clapping," "shouting," "solo singing," etc.) rather than keeping with the necessary worship actions approved by God.**
3. "Denying its power" (Greek ηρνημενοι - deny; δυναμιν - strength, power, ability)
 - a. **1 Timothy 5:8** – **One who provides not for his own household belies his obligation**
 - b. **Titus 2:12** – To be a Christian, one MUST "deny" ungodliness
 - c. Christians who will not stand faithful show this attitude!

"And from such people turn away!" 2 Timothy 3:5. Those who did not include:

1. "Gullible women" – (Greek γυναικαρια - "women who permit false teaching to invade their homes")
2. "Jannes & Jambres" – Moses' opponents in Egypt (?)

— John T. Polk II