

Revelation 22:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Analysis

The exclusion list (dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, liars) emphasizes that unrepentant sin bars entrance to the holy city. 'Dogs' was Jewish terminology for Gentiles or moral outcasts, here applied to the persistently immoral. The comprehensive catalog covers religious sin (sorcery, idolatry), sexual sin (fornication), violent sin (murder), and relational sin (lying). Reformed theology affirms that while believers struggle with sin, they don't persist in unrepentant practice (1 John 3:9). Those outside lack faith, demonstrated by continued evil. Only those washed by the Lamb's blood enter.

Historical Context

First-century churches struggled with moral boundaries—how holy must members be? Lists of excluded sins appear throughout New Testament (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21), establishing moral standards. The imagery of those 'without' contrasts those 'within' the city, emphasizing clear distinction between redeemed and condemned. This warned against tolerating persistent sin in church fellowship.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this exclusion list challenge you to examine whether your life demonstrates genuine repentance and faith?
2. What does the persistence of these sins 'without' the city teach about the necessity of holiness for entering God's presence?

Interlinear Text

εξω	δε	οι	κυνες	και	οι	φαρμακοι	και	οι
without	For	G3588	are dogs	and	G3588	sorcerers	and	G3588
G1854	G1161		G2965	G2532		G5333	G2532	

πορνοι	και	οι	φονεις	και	οι	ειδωλολατραι	και
whoremongers	and	G3588	murderers	and	G3588	idolaters	and
G4205	G2532		G5406	G2532		G1496	G2532

πας	ο	φιλων	και	ποιων	ψευδος
whosoever	G3588	loveth	and	maketh	a lie
G3956		G5368	G2532	G4160	G5579

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Philippians 3:2 (Parallel theme): Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

Revelation 21:27 (Parallel theme): And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Colossians 3:6 (Parallel theme): For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Revelation 18:23 (Parallel theme): And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Malachi 3:5 (Parallel theme): And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 57:3 (Parallel theme): But draw near hither, ye sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the whore.

Acts 8:11 (Parallel theme): And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

Jeremiah 5:31 (Love): The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Isaiah 47:12 (Parallel theme): Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail.