

# Romans 1:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

## Analysis

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**Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,**

Paul catalogs vices resulting from a reprobate mind: *peplērōmenous pasē adikia ponēria pleonexia kakia* (πεπληρωμένους πάση ἀδικία πονηρία πλεονεξία κακία, 'filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, malice'). *Peplērōmenous* (πεπληρωμένους, filled/stuffed full) suggests saturation, total permeation by evil. *Adikia* (ἀδικία, unrighteousness) is general injustice. *Ponēria* (πονηρία, wickedness/evil) is active malevolence. *Pleonexia* (πλεονεξία, covetousness/greed) is insatiable desire for more. *Kakia* (κακία, malice) is ill will toward others.

The list continues: *mestous phthonou phonou eridos dolou kakēthias* (μεστοὺς φθόνου φόνου ἔριδος δόλου κακοηθίας, 'full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity'). *Mestous* (full) emphasizes abundance. *Phthonou* (φθόνος, envy) is resentment of others' good. *Phonou* (φόνος, murder) begins with heart hatred (Matthew 5:21-22). *Eridos* (ἔρις, strife/quarreling) destroys relationships. *Dolou* (δόλος, deceit) is deception. *Kakēthias* (κακοηθία, malignity/craftiness) is evil disposition. Adding *psithyristas* (ψιθυριστάς, whisperers/gossips)—secret slanderers who destroy reputations. This list is comprehensive, covering attitudes, speech, and actions.

## Historical Context

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These vices characterized Greco-Roman society. Murder was entertainment (gladiators). Greed drove economic exploitation. Envy fueled political intrigue. Deceit was common in commerce and politics. Gossip destroyed reputations without accountability. Paul's lists of vices (also in Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10) functioned as mirrors for self-examination and warnings to churches contaminated by pagan culture. Modern readers should not assume moral superiority—these sins persist today, often disguised or rationalized.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. Which of these sins most characterizes your thought life, even if not acted upon externally?
2. How does being 'filled' (πληρώω) with vice contrast with being 'filled with the Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18)?
3. In what ways does contemporary culture normalize or celebrate these sins that Paul condemns?

## Interlinear Text

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πεπληρωμένους    πάση    ἀδικία    πορνεία,    πονηρία  
**Being filled with**    **all**    **unrighteousness**    **fornication**    **wickedness**  
G4137    G3956    G93    G4202    G4189

πλεονεξία    κακία    μεστοὺς    φθόνου    φόνου    ἔριδος  
**covetousness**    **maliciousness**    **full**    **of envy**    **murder**    **debate**  
G4124    G2549    G3324    G5355    G5408    G2054

δόλου    κακοηθείας    ψιθυριστάς  
**deceit**    **malignity**    **whisperers**  
G1388    G2550    G5588

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 12:20** (Parallel theme): For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults:

**Proverbs 16:28** (Parallel theme): A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

**Psalms 41:7** (Parallel theme): All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt.

**Proverbs 26:20** (Parallel theme): Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.