

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

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 πάσῃ ἀδικίᾳ πονηρίᾳ πλεονεξίᾳ κακίᾳ, '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* (κακίᾳ, 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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Which of these sins most characterizes your thought life, even if not acted upon externally?
2. How does being 'filled' (πληρόω) 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

πεπληρωμένους πάσῃ ἀδικίᾳ πορνείᾳ, πονηρίᾳ

Being filled with

G4137

all

G3956

ἀδικίᾳ

unrighteousness

G93

πορνείᾳ,

fornication

G4202

πονηρίᾳ

wickedness

G4189

πλεονεξίᾳ κακίᾳ μεστοὺς φθόνου φόνου ἔριδος

covetousness

G4124

maliciousness

G2549

full

G3324

of envy

G5355

murder

G5408

debate

G2054

δόλου κακοηθείας ψιθυριστάς

deceit

G1388

malignity

G2550

whisperers

G5588

Additional Cross-References

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.