

## SEVEN STEPS TO SCHISM

### GALATIANS 5:20

1. These "works of the flesh" are listed in an ascending order of damage.
2. Every unscriptural division in the church of Christ follows this pattern.
3. Developing divisions can be dealt with by recognizing the current "step" and proceeding to scripturally deal with the false teachers of it (**Matthew 7:15-20; 18:15-18; Romans 16:17**)
4. God promptly dealt with the first willful sinners in the church (**Acts 5:1-11**).
  - a) **Hatred** – Greek *echthrai*- hostile, hating and opposing another
    - 1) Sinners' general attitude toward God (**Romans 5:10; Galatians 4:16**)
    - 2) Satan's position and work against God (**Matthew 13:28, 39**)
    - 3) Saviour's general attitude toward the sinful (**James 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:25-26**)
  - b) **Variance** – Greek *ereis*- contention, strife, wrangling
    - 1) Evidence of carnality among brethren (**1 Corinthians 1:11-13; 3:3; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Titus 3:9**)
    - 2) Excused for "soundness" (**Philippians 1:15**)
  - c) **Emulations** – Greek *dzeloi*- fervor, excitement in defending anything
    - 1) Approved when for the right thing (**John 2:13-17; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Colossians 4:12-13**)
    - 2) Awful when aimed at the church (**Philippians 3:6; Acts 13:45**)
    - 3) Arrogant when aimed away from one's self (**James 3:14-16**)
  - d) **Wrath** – Greek *thumoi*- explosive anger, quickly subsiding, breathe violently
    - 1) Aggressive, even against Jesus! (**Luke 4:22-30; Acts 19:26-28**)
    - 2) Apparently only God can properly control its expression (**Romans 12:19**)
    - 3) Adverse effect on Christians (**Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8; 2 Corinthians 12:20**)
  - e) **Strife** – Greek *epithemai*- electioneering, courting distinction, partisanship
    - 1) Personal interests must be kept aside in preaching (**Philippians 1:15-18**)
    - 2) Personalities must be kept down in "membering" (**Philippians 2:3**)
    - 3) Promotion of ANY GOOD WORK must not "lapse" into this.
  - f) **Seditions** – Greek *dichostasiai*- to stand apart, create two-parties
    - 1) There are NOT two sides to truthful obedience (**Romans 16:17-19**)
    - 2) There is NO spirituality in doctrinal splits (**1 Corinthians 3:3**)
    - 3) The church becomes worldly when it divides (**Galatians 5:20**)
  - g) **Heresies** – Greek *aireseis*- capturing or choosing a particular tenet
    - 1) Choosing the lesser of evils is still evil (**2 Peter 2:1-2**)
    - 2) Combining with "the faithful" IS "SECTARIANISM!"  
(**Acts 5:17; 15:5; 26:5; 24:5, 15; 28:22**)
    - 3) Crucifixion occurs all over, again (**1 Corinthians 11:19-20** cf **Hebrews 6:4-6**)

