

## ***Good Sin Lists!***

What? “Good sin lists?” Certainly! Oh, wait, *not that!* Every sin list in the Bible is a *good list of bad sins (of course all sins are bad)*. The lists are great lists, given by God Himself! Without those lists we wouldn’t know what God rejects. Without those lists we would not know how to please our heavenly Father in the aspect of staying away from evil.

God, in His precious mercy, gives us marvelous lists of good things, the fruit of the spirit for instance, and lists of bad things. Life’s joys will be defined by how well we keep the good and reject the bad. “Love, joy, peace and patience,” in Galatians 5:22, are set in opposition to the “deeds of the flesh,” in Galatians 5:19, and therein God is shining a bright light that we might see where the two paths lead – one to paradise, one to perdition.

We should not *fear* sin lists themselves, they are God’s gifts to us that we might avoid the headaches and heartaches those sins bring into our lives. Likewise, as we love God's lists of good deeds and clear directions, they become the palette from which we paint a life of love and joy. The colors are kindness, goodness, gentleness and many others. Therefore we simply must recognize that God’s lists of things to avoid are given as unspeakably wonderful gifts to help us in all the journeys of life, the tough and the easy.

Some of the New Testament sin lists are short, some are longer. Which ones might be labeled as “major” or “minor” could be debated, but we can list at least a few here:

Matthew 25:41-46

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Galatians 5:19-22 (vv. 22-23 give the opposite)

Ephesians 5:3-6

2 Timothy 3:1-9

Revelation 21:8

Revelation 22:12-16

That should be enough for a week’s worth of study. Remember, these lists, though lists of negative things are to help us know what to avoid, so that we may bask in the blessings God showers down on those who love Him and keep His commandments (John 14:15).

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