

Christian Virtues and Unchristian Vices

Explanation

One may glean from the writings of the New Testament references to dozens of virtues and vices. Chart 12-14, on the one hand, offers a simple listing of the numerous virtues expected of a true Christian. The list is long, and without the blessings of the Spirit of God no person can acquire all these many traits of righteousness. But with the help of God, lives can be transformed and these attributes of divine nature can be enjoyed by the Saints. Consulting and reviewing this list will help the meek and humble followers of Christ to grow in goodness and godliness.

Chart 12-15, on the other hand, tabulates the many vices that Christians are warned and counseled to shun. Lists of virtues and vices are often found in scripture (as in the Ten Commandments), as well as in the moralistic writings of the Hellenistic age. In the New Testament, one famous list of eight divine virtues is found in 2 Peter 1:5–7, and a trenchant list of ten wicked vices is given in 1 Corinthians 6:9–10. Charts 12-14 and 12-15 combine to produce a comprehensive profile of what it means to be a true Christian in terms of human ethics and moral behavior.

References

John T. Fitzgerald, "Virtue/Vice Lists," *ABD*, 6:857–59.
"Exemplary Life," *WRC*, 15–16.

Unchristian Vices

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| Abusing oneself with mankind, sodomy | Jesting, coarse jokes |
| Adultery | Judging, condemning |
| Anger | Leaving nature, homosexuality |
| Being ashamed of one's testimony | Loving money, avarice |
| Babbling | Lust, toward men or women |
| Bitterness | Lying |
| Blasphemy | Malice |
| Boasting | Murmuring, grumbling |
| Brawling | Being a novice |
| Being a busybody, meddling | Offending |
| Childishness, immaturity | Partiality, playing favorites |
| Clamoring, shouting | Provoking, irritating |
| Conceit | Being puffed up, conceit |
| Concupiscence, lust, envy | Purloining, embezzling |
| Conformity to the world | Rendering evil for evil |
| Contention, discord | Respecter of persons, unfairness |
| Covetousness | Reviling, abusing |
| Craftiness, trickery | Self-seeking |
| Deceit | Self-will, stubbornness, arrogance |
| Defrauding, taking advantage | Shaken in mind, wavering |
| Despising, disdain, contempt | Sin |
| Dishonesty, shamefulness | Slander |
| Disputing, arguing | Slothfulness, laziness |
| Double-tonguedness, insincerity | Spot, blemish |
| Doubt | Strife, ambition, quarreling |
| Drunkardness | Striking, fighting |
| Easy provocation, irritability | Superfluity of naughtiness, wickedness |
| Being effeminate, transsexual | Swearing, issuing oaths |
| Envy, jealousy | Tattling, gossip |
| Evil doing or speaking | Terror, intimidation |
| Extortion, robbery, plundering | Theft, stealing |
| Being faint, slacking | Being troubled or disturbed |
| False accusing, slander | Uncleanness, impurity |
| Filthiness, indecency | Ungodliness, impiety |
| Foolish questions | Unrighteousness, injustice |
| Foolish or silly talk | Unseemly behavior, disgrace, indecency |
| Fornication, prostitution | Being unwise, foolishness, ignorance |
| Genealogical boasting | Vainglory, empty conceit |
| Greed | Vanity, emptiness, frustration |
| Grudging, complaining | Vaunting, boasting, bragging |
| Guile, cunning | Wavering, indecision |
| High-mindedness, pride, haughtiness | Weakness |
| Hypocrisy | Whoremongering, fornication |
| Idleness | Being given to wine |
| Idolatry | Wrath, anger, rage |
| Inordinate affection, passion | |