

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

BY SCOTT PARKER

THEY WHICH COMMIT SUCH THINGS...

Rom. 1:28-31 reads as follows: “*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient, Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.*” Let’s now define the words I’ve underlined; giving some cross-references when possible.

Unrighteousness – The Greek word is “adikía” (#93). This equates to a general disregard for God’s will (cf. **1 Jn. 5:17**).

Fornication – “porneía” (#4202). This can be unlawful sexual intercourse (cf. **Heb 13:4**) or spiritual whoredom (cf. **Rev. 2:21**).

Wickedness – “ponēría” (#4189). The idea here is being ugly on the inside (cf. **Lk. 11:37-39**).

Covetousness – “pleonexía” (#4124). This is greediness (cf. **Eph 4:19**): the desire to have always more and more carnal items.

Maliciousness – “kakía” (#2549). This is the outward expression of being ugly on the inside (cf. **Ax. 8:18-22; 1 Pet. 2:15-16**).

Envy – “phthónos” (#5355). In a negative way, this equates to jealousy over another (cf. **Mt. 27:18; Jn. 12:19**).

Murder – “phónos” (#5408). The import is slaughtering the innocent (cf. **Heb. 11:37; contrast Rom. 13:1-4**).

Debate – “éris” (#2054). Here the idea is being given to selfish quarrels; i.e. fighting for the wrong reason (cf. **Plp. 1:15-16**).

Deceit – “dólos” (#1388). The gist of this word is craftily manipulating situations for one’s own gain (cf. **Mt. 26:3-4**).

Malignity – “kakoétheia” (#2550). This is unfairly giving an evil interpretation to another’s actions. “*He did that just so...*”

Whisperers – “psithuristēs” (#5588). This is your gossip who cares not for whom they hurt.

Backbiters – “katálos” (#2637). This is your slanderer; one who sets out to defame people.

Haters of God – “theostugés” (#2319). This is simple enough to understand (compare **Jn. 14:15**).

Despiteful – “hubristés” (#5197). This refers to one who harms others by violent acts (cf. **1 Tim. 1:12-13**).

Proud – “huperéphanos” (#5244). The basic idea here is when one feels as though he’s above other people (cf. **Js. 4:6**).

Boasters – “alazón” (#213). Here the idea is a fake person who makes more of himself than reality justifies.

Inventors of Evil Things – “epheurētēs” (#2182) & “kakós” (#2556). These are spiritual innovators (compare **Ax. 20:28-30**).

Disobedient to Parents – “apeithés” (#545) & “goneús” (#1118). This is easy to understand (compare **Eph. 6:1; Ax. 5:29**).

Without Understanding – “asúnetos” (#801). This is when one capable doesn’t perceive the truth of something (cf. **Mt. 15:16**).

Covenant Breakers – “asúnthetos” (#802). The idea here is not keeping the commitments you’ve made (so long as you’re able).

Without Natural Affection – “ástorgos” (#794). This refers primarily to heartless “parents” that do not do right by their children.

Implacable – “áspondos” (#786). This refers to people who refuse to give up a fight even when opponents wish to reconcile.

Unmerciful – “aneleémōn” (#415). This is a ruthless person who willfully will not even consider another’s cry for help.

Do you see yourself in **Rom. 1:28-31**? For instance, do you show contempt for God’s will? Do you make more of yourself than you really are? Do you manipulate situations for your own personal gain? Do you fail to keep your commitments? Do you fight just because you love fighting? Are you an innovator? If so, please carefully consider **Rom. 1:32** – “*Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*”