

In Mark 7:21-22, Jesus lists 13 vices that come from the human heart, illustrating that sin and impurity originate from within, not from external sources. The passage reads:

"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness." (Mark 7:21-22, ESV)

The List of 13 Vices:

1. **Evil thoughts** (*dialogismoi ponēroi*) - sinful reasoning or intentions.
2. **Sexual immorality** (*porneiai*) - illicit sexual behavior, including fornication.
3. **Theft** (*klopai*) - taking what belongs to others.
4. **Murder** (*phonoí*) - taking someone's life unjustly.
5. **Adultery** (*moicheiai*) - breaking the marital covenant.
6. **Coveting** (*pleonexiai*) - greed, a desire for more than one's due.
7. **Wickedness** (*ponēriai*) - general evil or malice.
8. **Deceit** (*dolos*) - misleading others, trickery.
9. **Sensuality** (*aselgeia*) - lack of restraint, often related to indulgence in lust.
10. **Envy** (*ophthalmos ponēros*) - resentment of others' success or possessions.
11. **Slander** (*blasphēmia*) - injuring someone's reputation through false speech.
12. **Pride** (*hyperēphania*) - arrogance, thinking too highly of oneself.
13. **Foolishness** (*aphrosynē*) - lack of moral and spiritual discernment.

Is there any connection or order?

Yes, the list has a deep connection, primarily in how these vices flow from the **inner condition of the heart** and manifest as outward sins. There appears to be a progression from **thought** (starting with *evil thoughts*) to **action** (sins like theft, murder, and adultery), and then to the **attitudes** that sustain these sinful behaviors (*pride, foolishness*).

- **Evil thoughts** are placed first because sin begins in the mind and heart. These thoughts set the stage for the actions that follow.
- **Sexual immorality, theft, murder, and adultery** are physical actions, expressing the inner condition in concrete ways.
- **Coveting** and **wickedness** reflect inward attitudes that lead to the harmful actions of theft, adultery, etc.
- **Deceit, sensuality, and envy** reflect attitudes that lead to relational sins, damaging trust and the integrity of community.
- **Slander** flows from deceit and envy, further harming others.

- **Pride** is the root of many of these vices, leading to a sense of entitlement to sin.
- **Foolishness** concludes the list, marking a lack of wisdom that characterizes a life detached from God.

We could break the vices into **three categories**:

1. **Evil Thoughts and Inner Desires**: evil thoughts, coveting, envy, deceit.
2. **Actions**: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, slander.
3. **Attitudes**: wickedness, sensuality, pride, foolishness.

To counter the 13 vices listed in Mark 7:21-22, we can consider corresponding **virtues** that reflect the transformation of the heart toward holiness. Each virtue represents a positive moral quality that opposes the sinful tendencies Jesus identifies.

1. Evil thoughts (*dialogismoī ponēroi*) → Purity of Thought (*Chastity of Mind*)

- **Virtue: Purity of thought** involves filling the mind with good, righteous, and uplifting things (Philippians 4:8). Instead of scheming or dwelling on evil, this virtue leads to wholesome reflection and upright intentions.

2. Sexual immorality (*porneiai*) → Chastity (*Temperance*)

- **Virtue: Chastity** is the virtue that governs sexual desires according to God's plan for human sexuality. It involves self-control and respect for the dignity of the body (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

3. Theft (*klopai*) → Generosity (*Liberality*)

- **Virtue: Generosity** freely gives of one's resources or time to others without expecting anything in return. It is the opposite of stealing and reflects an attitude of abundance rather than lack (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

4. Murder (*phonoī*) → Respect for Life (*Kindness*)

- **Virtue: Kindness** is the virtue that fosters life, care, and compassion for others. It stands against the destruction of life and reflects the commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself (Matthew 5:44).

5. Adultery (*moicheiai*) → Fidelity (*Faithfulness*)

- **Virtue: Fidelity** refers to faithfulness, especially within marriage. It represents the virtue of honoring one's commitments and being trustworthy, reflecting God's own faithfulness to us (Hebrews 13:4).

6. Coveting (*pleonexiai*) → Contentment (*Simplicity*)

- **Virtue: Contentment** is the opposite of coveting. It involves being satisfied with what one has and trusting in God's provision (Philippians 4:11-12), leading to inner peace and simplicity of life.

7. Wickedness (*ponēriai*) → Goodness (*Integrity*)

- **Virtue: Goodness** is moral excellence, which means striving to do what is right and just in all situations. It reflects a heart that seeks righteousness (Galatians 5:22).

8. Deceit (*dolos*) → Truthfulness (*Honesty*)

- **Virtue: Truthfulness** is the commitment to being honest in word and deed, reflecting God's nature as Truth. It involves sincerity, transparency, and integrity in all relationships (Ephesians 4:25).

9. Sensuality (*aselgeia*) → Self-Control (*Temperance*)

- **Virtue: Self-control** is the ability to master one's desires and impulses, particularly in matters of indulgence (Galatians 5:23). It stands against unbridled sensuality and promotes moderation.

10. Envy (*ophthalmos ponēros*) → Gratitude (*Charity*)

- **Virtue: Gratitude** and **charity** are antidotes to envy. They involve appreciating what one has and celebrating the blessings of others rather than resenting them (James 3:16-17).

11. Slander (*blasphēmia*) → Respectful Speech (*Gentleness*)

- **Virtue: Gentleness** in speech and **respect for others** involve speaking with kindness, truth, and love. It counters slander, which damages reputations (Ephesians 4:29).

12. Pride (*hyperēphania*) → Humility (*Meekness*)

- **Virtue: Humility** involves recognizing one's dependence on God and the worth of others. It is the opposite of pride, which exalts self above others and ultimately rejects God (Philippians 2:3-4).

13. Foolishness (*aphrosynē*) → Wisdom (*Prudence*)

- **Virtue: Wisdom** involves discerning right from wrong and acting accordingly. It is the virtue that directs all other virtues and helps one live in accordance with God's will (Proverbs 9:10).

Summary of Corresponding Virtues:

1. **Purity of Thought** → **Evil thoughts**
2. **Chastity** → **Sexual immorality**
3. **Generosity** → **Theft**
4. **Respect for Life/Kindness** → **Murder**
5. **Fidelity** → **Adultery**
6. **Contentment** → **Coveting**
7. **Goodness** → **Wickedness**
8. **Truthfulness** → **Deceit**
9. **Self-Control** → **Sensuality**
10. **Gratitude** → **Envy**
11. **Respectful Speech** → **Slander**
12. **Humility** → **Pride**
13. **Wisdom** → **Foolishness**

How are they related to each other?

The virtues directly **counter the vices** by addressing the root problems in the heart. For instance:

- **Evil thoughts** are purified through **chastity of mind**, transforming sinful desires into holy intentions.
- **Sensuality** and **sexual immorality** are conquered by **self-control** and **chastity**, which align the body with moral discipline.
- **Envy** gives way to **gratitude**, which helps one appreciate God's gifts rather than resenting others.

Each pair shows how virtue heals the corruption of vice and leads the heart closer to God.