

The 13 vices listed in Mark 7:21-22 can be understood as opposing the three **theological virtues—faith, hope, and charity**. Each of these virtues connects us to God and guides our relationship with others, and the vices represent distortions of these relationships.

Here's how the vices align against **faith, hope, and charity**, and how these virtues serve as remedies:

### **Vices Against Faith:**

**Faith** is trust and belief in God and His truth. Vices against faith involve rejecting or distorting that relationship.

1. **Deceit** (*dolos*) - **Deceit** undermines truth, and faith is rooted in truth. If one habitually deceives, it becomes difficult to live in the truth of God's Word, making faith weak or hypocritical.
  - o **Remedy: Faithfulness** (being committed to truth and integrity).
2. **Foolishness** (*aphrosynē*) - **Foolishness** refers to a lack of moral and spiritual discernment. It represents a rejection of wisdom and understanding, which are closely tied to faith.
  - o **Remedy: Wisdom in Faith** (seeking God's guidance and living in His light).
3. **Pride** (*hyperēphania*) - Pride can lead to self-reliance, rejecting the need for God's grace and truth. A proud heart may place personal opinion above divine revelation, leading to a loss of faith.
  - o **Remedy: Humility** (acknowledging dependence on God and faith in His truth).

### **Vices Against Hope:**

**Hope** is the trust in God's promises, especially eternal life. Vices against hope destroy or distort trust in God's providence and the promise of salvation.

1. **Envy** (*ophthalmos ponēros*) - **Envy** reflects a lack of trust in God's provision. Instead of trusting in God's goodness for oneself, envy resents the blessings given to others, damaging hope.
  - o **Remedy: Hope** (trust in God's timing and His promises).

2. **Coveting** (*pleonexiai*) - **Coveting** is a desire for what belongs to others and indicates dissatisfaction with what God has provided. It stems from a lack of hope in God's sufficiency and future provision.
  - o **Remedy: Contentment in Hope** (trusting that God will meet every need).
3. **Sensuality** (*aselgeia*) - **Sensuality** (indulging in base desires) shows a lack of hope for eternal joy. It seeks immediate gratification, indicating disbelief in the higher and lasting fulfillment that God promises.
  - o **Remedy: Hope in Eternal Joy** (longing for God's eternal happiness rather than fleeting pleasure).

### Vices Against Charity:

**Charity** is selfless love for God and neighbor. Vices against charity harm others or reject love's self-giving nature.

1. **Evil thoughts** (*dialogismoι ponēroi*) - **Evil thoughts** undermine charity because they lead to harm and malice toward others.
  - o **Remedy: Purity of Heart** (loving thoughts that reflect charity).
2. **Sexual immorality** (*porneiai*) - **Sexual immorality** breaks the bonds of true, self-giving love. It uses others selfishly rather than respecting their dignity.
  - o **Remedy: Chastity** (honoring love within proper boundaries).
3. **Theft** (*klopai*) - **Theft** contradicts love for neighbor by taking what is not yours. It harms others and reflects greed, not charity.
  - o **Remedy: Generosity** (giving rather than taking).
4. **Murder** (*phonoι*) - **Murder** is the ultimate rejection of charity, destroying the life of another and the very possibility of loving them.
  - o **Remedy: Kindness and Respect for Life** (seeking the well-being of others).
5. **Adultery** (*moicheiai*) - **Adultery** violates the trust and love within marriage. It is an unfaithful act, breaking the covenant of love.
  - o **Remedy: Fidelity** (faithfulness in love).
6. **Wickedness** (*ponēriai*) - **Wickedness** is a general malice that opposes the goodness and love of charity, harming others and spreading evil.
  - o **Remedy: Goodness** (acting out of love and charity).

7. **Slander** (*blasphēmia*) - **Slander** damages another's reputation, violating the love and respect we owe to others.
  - **Remedy: Truthfulness** and **Respect** (loving others through our words).

## **Dividing the 13 Vices into the Three Theological Virtues:**

### **1. Vices Against Faith:**

- **Deceit**
- **Foolishness**
- **Pride**

### **2. Vices Against Hope:**

- **Envy**
- **Coveting**
- **Sensuality**

### **3. Vices Against Charity:**

- **Evil thoughts**
- **Sexual immorality**
- **Theft**
- **Murder**
- **Adultery**
- **Wickedness**
- **Slander**

## **The Three Theological Virtues as Remedies:**

- **Faith** calls for belief in God's truth and living according to it.
- **Hope** sustains trust in God's promises and eternal life.
- **Charity** guides love for God and neighbor, seeking the good of others.

Each theological virtue directly combats the distortions represented by these vices, and living by faith, hope, and charity leads to overcoming sin.