

SARX ("FLESH") IN THE NIV

The New International Version (and the 2001 revision, *Today's New International Version*), without justification, interpolate "sinful nature" into the biblical text. The Greek word *sarx*, meaning "flesh," is sometimes rendered "sinful nature" as in the NIV, but not in most other translations.

The translators of the NIV and TNIV rendered *sarx* "sinful nature" twice in Colossians (2:11, 13). A footnote has "Or *the flesh*." To their credit, *sarx* is translated differently in other passages in Colossians by the NIV: "physical body" (1:22); "flesh" (1:24); "personally" (2:1); "body" (2:5); "unspiritual mind" (2:18); "human" (2:23); "earthly" (3:22). However, when "sinful nature" is used, it not only represents *sarx* unfairly, but it also contradicts the biblical concept of the nature of man. Compare the following passages:

	KJV	NASB	NIV
Rom. 7:5	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
7:18	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
7:25	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
8:3	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
	"sinful flesh"	"sinful flesh"	"sinful man"
	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful man"
8:4	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
8:5	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
	"flesh"	"flesh"	"what that nature desires"
8:6	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
8:7	"carnal mind"	"mind set on the flesh"	"sinful mind"
8:8	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
8:9	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
8:12	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
	"flesh"	"flesh"	("it")
8:13	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
13:14	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
1 Cor. 5:5	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
Gal. 5:13	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
5:16	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
5:17	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
5:19	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
5:24	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
6:8	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
	"flesh"	"flesh"	"that nature"
Eph. 2:3	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
	"flesh"	"flesh"	("its")
2:11	"flesh"	"flesh"	"by birth"
	"flesh"	"flesh"	"in the body"
Col. 2:11	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
2:13	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
2 Pet. 2:10	"flesh"	"flesh"	"sinful nature"
2:18	"flesh"	"fleshly desires"	"sinful human nature"