



The Wisdom of Proverbs

Sunday, August 10, 2025

“Hating The Things That God Hates”

Proverbs 6:16-19, *“¹⁶These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: ¹⁷A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”*

In talking about things that God hates I thought it would be important to establish the fact of God’s unsurpassable, indescribable, unfailing love. But that love demands that God be just in His dealing with mankind. And in being just there are things which God hates. While He does not hate individuals, He does hate the actions, attitudes, and spirits that people acquire and manifest. If we are going to live a God-centered life and be fulfilled, then we must not only love what God loves, but also hate those things which God hates. God has a clear message for us today found in Romans 12:9. It says, *“Let love be without dissimulation.”* (What does that word mean? It means don’t just pretend to love people. The word dissimulation means hypocrisy or dishonesty.) *Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”*

Before we look at the things God hates listed in Proverbs 6, let’s look first at how this passage begins. Verse 16 states, *“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him.”* What does this mean? Why didn’t Solomon just say God hates these seven things. The wording indicates that God fully hates seven things and the seventh thing is especially detestable to Him. Why would God hate these things? To answer that question you must never forget that humanity was His crowning creation. It is the creation into which He breathed the breath of life. It is the one creation that He willingly laid down His life for. Therefore, He hates these things because of what happens when they enter the lives of His children. He knows the incredible damage that can be done to us by these types of sins. We were intended to love and serve God. When these things enter into our lives then God’s plan and purpose is perverted. So we must avoid these things if we hope to be pleasing to God.

Before we jump into the list I want to point out that the list consists of 5 body parts and 2 kinds of people. In the list Solomon moves from head to toe. He assigns particular sins to the eyes, the tongue, the hands, the heart, and the feet. It may even have been a tool in memorizing this list to go from the head to the toes. We don’t have time today to get into this but there is also a parallel between this list and the beatitudes in Matthew 5. And one more thing before we start the list is these are not just things that God kind of dislikes, but He can tolerate in some measure. No! These



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are things that God hates. The language that is used here expresses God's extreme hatred or disapproval of the things we will talk about today.

The first thing on the list that God hates is **"a proud look."** Proverbs 16:18 says, *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."* Pride is the basis of many other sins. Pride can cause man to turn away from God. Pride is the beginning of rebellion, and the basis of disobedience. The word pride literally means to bring up or exalt self, to be haughty, to be presumptuous. A proud look is the idea that we are better than others. You see it in the Pharisee of Luke 18 that said, "I'm glad I'm not like that sinner." Lucifer lost his position in heaven because of pride when he repeatedly made these "I" statements and tried to exalt himself above God. Pride says, in its own way, "I want to be equal to God!"

There is a proper response to pride. The remedy from Scripture is very simple. You can counter pride with an opposite, and more powerful virtue. That virtue would be humility. How can we gain humility in our lives? Confess to being proud and repent. Don't take yourself too seriously. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Compare yourself upwards, not downwards. In other words if you just have to compare, then compare yourself to God and see how you're doing. Don't compare yourself to man. Philippians 2:3 says, *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."* Always remember the words of James 4:6 that says, *"But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."*

The second thing the Lord hates is **"a lying tongue."** A lying tongue distorts reality and destroys people. The tongue is one of the most dangerous things in the whole world! Maybe that's why Shakespeare stated "The Pen is Mightier than the sword." He knew that words were capable of more damage than all the armies in the world! Perhaps the best instruction concerning the tongue comes from the book of James 3:5-6, *"⁵Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."*

It's interesting that in the book *The Day America Told the Truth* it says that 91% of those surveyed lie routinely about matters they consider trivial. 36% lie about important matters. 86% lie regularly to parents, 75% to friends, 73% to siblings, and 69% to spouses.

So what's the big deal about lying? A lying tongue can hinder our blessing from God. In Isaiah 59 Israel found themselves in a place of desiring the blessings of the Lord and not understanding why they had been removed from them. Isaiah declares that it is not because God's arm has been shortened or His ear no longer able to hear. But because of their iniquity they have lost the blessing. The remainder of the passage says your lips have spoken lies. It says your tongue hath



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muttered perverseness. God's dealing with Israel is a strong warning to us as to how He views sins of the tongue. With the tongue we either unify or divide. James 3:2 says, *"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."*

The third thing on this list of things that God hates is **"hands that shed innocent blood."** This is a topic that can be controversial to many today. William Bennett, in his writings, states "Nearly one in four pregnancies in the United States ends in abortion. The number peaked in 1990 at about 1.6 million abortions. Nearly one-eighth during the second or third-trimester. 93% of the time, there is no "special case" like a mother whose life is threatened, a rape or incest victim, or a child with predictions of health problems." God hates abortion. Two scriptures in particular attest to this fact: Exodus 20:13 says, *"Thou shalt not kill."* And Psalm 127:3 says, *"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."*

Did you know that at 18 days after conception the heart beats on its own. At 6 weeks the fetus quickly moves in the womb. Brain waves are present at 8 weeks and the child grabs, swims freely, and the heartbeat is measurable. At 12 weeks the baby cries, sucks its thumb, sleeps and wakes. All organs and systems function, including mental. The unborn infant can definitely feel pain. From this point on nothing new develops there is just growth and a maturing process.

Abortion will invite God's wrath. The Bible plainly tells us that shedding innocent blood can bring wrath upon an individual or a nation.

The fourth thing the Lord hates is **"a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations."** The Hebrew word for deviseth means something that is done in secrecy and with subtlety. In other words, a sneaky plan. The world's view of this is seen in Thomas Carlyle's statement "He who has a secret should not only hide it, but hide that he has it to hide." What are wicked imaginations? Basically, they are thoughts of iniquity and evil. We realize that there are evil thoughts in the hearts of all men. But when an individual begins to devise and plan out evil acts that give control over to Satan he becomes abhorrent to God. These occur when we fulfill our selfish and sinful desires. Matthew 15:19 states, *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:"*

We must be careful what we bury in our heart. To bury something does not mean it is dead. It may simply mean we have buried something alive that will devour and destroy us from within. We are admonished by the Apostle Paul as to what we should do with these types of thoughts in 2 Corinthians 10:5, *"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."*

The fifth thing the Lord hates is **"feet that be swift in running to mischief."** When the eyes, the tongue, the hands, and the intellect are rushing toward sin the feet are sure to follow! This speaks



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of feet that move quickly to carry out what has already been devised in the heart. It's almost like the feet have no choice because so much of the body is consumed. As you can see more and more of the person becomes committed to sin. When that happens sin controls more and more of the person. Ultimately more and more of the person is consumed by these things which God hates. The result is that we willingly rush toward sin. We find ourselves doing things we never thought we would ever do! Our actions are based upon the desires of our hearts and the words of our tongue. At this point, we're almost completely committed to sin.

Erma Bombeck said, "We live in a strange society where we make documentaries of serial killers, movie idols out of organized crime members, authors out of political crooks, and role models out of criminals who beat the system. I don't know when crime went from being news to entertainment, but somehow it's made the transition."

The sixth thing the Lord hates is "**a false witness that speaketh lies.**" The Hebrew word speaketh is "puah" and it literally means to "blow out" or "breathe out" lies. It actually encompasses two sins of the tongue. First, making fictitious, or totally false statements, and second, taking the truth and altering it in some way so as to change the meaning entirely. The first one spins or makes up the truth, and the other one paints or recolors the truth. It is interesting to note that 2 of the 7 things which God hates deal with the tongue.

In the book *The New Doublespeak* William Lutz, redefines the following terms:

- Recession is a "Meaningful downturn in aggregate output"
- Kick-back is "After-sales service"
- Trash dump is a "Resource development park"
- Stolen goods are "Temporarily displaced inventory"
- Lying is "Strategic misrepresentation or Reality augmentation"

A church member was heard to say, "By the time my outpatient surgery got to the end of the prayer chain, I'd had my legs amputated, died, and left \$100,000 to the building fund." What's wrong with a little exaggeration? Martin Luther once said, "A lie is like a snowball. The longer its rolled on the ground, the bigger it becomes." Mark Twain put it like this, "One of the striking differences between a cat and a lie is a cat only has nine lives."

God hates this use of the tongue. Never forget that it is the tongue that is used to vocally express praise to God. When that same tongue is used to falsely accuse, or to lie about another human being, then we have perverted its purpose. Such use of the tongue will hinder our pure vocal expression of worship to God. James 3:10-13 states *"¹⁰Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. ¹¹Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? ¹²Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. ¹³Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."* Here,



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the writer correlates our proper use of the tongue to the possession of wisdom. The wise person maintains proper control of their tongue.

The final thing the Lord hates is **“he that soweth discord among brethren.”** This seventh thing which God hates has a special emphasis. God really hates this thing. This passage is saying that of all the human traits that God hates, the worst is stirring up trouble in the church.

Sin has reached its conclusion. The sin that started with the pride (the eyes); has progressed through evil words (the tongue); the actions (hands); the intellect (the mind); the actions (the feet); mores lies (the tongue, again); until finally, by manifesting the ultimate trait that God finds detestable, we find the person doing all they can to stir up dissension in the church.

By the time a person has cultivated the first six things into their lives they have encompassed their entire being. All that is left for them now is to turn to someone else and try to destroy them. This scripture, in particular is descriptive. To sow something takes thought, planning, and action with an expected result in mind. The sower knows in the beginning what they are hoping to accomplish. What are they sowing? Discord. It is not that it is wrong to think, plan and act, and even to expect a harvest. The issue is with what is being sown. Here the sower is planting the seeds of discord. Discord means strife, discontentment, questionings. God desires His people to be united, not divided. Psalm 133: 1-3 says, *“¹Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ²It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; ³As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.”* In this passage God ties unity to right relationships among brethren. God ties unity to the anointing, and the blessing of life.

How can we guard against allowing these things which God hates into our lives? Through prayer and knowing the Word. Psalm 119:11 says, *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”* We guard against these things by making no compromise. Romans 12:2 says, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* Titus 2:11-12 gives this instruction, *“¹¹For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹²Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”*