

## Common Sins – What God Hates

### Prov 6

Today we'll look at a network of sins that are distinguished by the reference to "six things which the Lord hates."

That phraseology should get our attention because we are so used to talking about the love of God, and "God is love". So when we hear that God hates something we should pay attention.

EX: my father was 20 when the Great Depression hit in 1929. He learned to live with deprivation. He learned to eat what he could get and he learned to like it. Growing up we would try to see if there was something that he didn't like to eat because it would be the outlier. Is there something that Daddy doesn't like? If so, we'd make note of it.

EX: If a spouse, friend, parent, child, etc tells you something he/she hates, wouldn't you want to note that so as to not cause unnecessary unrest?

So too, when scripture tells us what God hates, we should make note of it.

Why would we who profess to know and love God want to do the things He hates?

God doesn't spring these things on us out of the blue. He comes right out and tells us.

In Prov 6 we are getting words of wisdom that cover a wide range of issues from not being indebted to guarding your words to the importance of honest hard work.

In verse twelve the Proverbs focus on the worthless person. Several sins or categories of sin are mentioned. We won't deal with all of them today, but it is helpful to get an overview.

This is PROVERBIAL street level wisdom that touches on various aspects of life and relationships.

V. 12 – A worthless person, a wicked man,  
Is the one who walks with a perverse mouth,  
13 Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet,  
Who points with his fingers;  
14 Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil,  
Who spreads strife.  
15 Therefore his calamity will come suddenly;  
Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.  
16 There are six things which the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:  
17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,  
18 A heart that devises wicked plans, (Ps 10 no thought of God)  
Feet that run rapidly to evil,  
19 A false witness who utters lies,  
(speaking and listening)  
And one who spreads strife among brothers.

### WHY DOES God HATE SIN AND THESE THINGS?

Tripp NMM

Sin is every human being's core disease. It is completely beyond the power of any human being to escape it. It separates you from God, for whom you were created. It damages every aspect of your personhood. It makes it impossible for you to be what God created you to be and to do what God designed you to do. It robs you of inner contentment and peace, and it puts you at war with other human beings. It renders you blind, weak, self-oriented, and rebellious. It reduces all of us to fools, and ultimately it leads to death. Sin is an unmitigated, almost

incalculable disaster. You can run from a certain situation, you can get yourself out of a relationship, and you can move to another location and choose not to go back again. But you and I have no ability whatsoever to escape from the hold that sin has on us. It is the moral Vise-Grip that has held the heart of every person who has ever lived.

The effect of sin on people was deep, heart deep. Sin is not just a matter of bad behavior. It is a condition of the heart. That's why you cannot free yourself from it. Second, the effects of sin on you and me are comprehensive. EYES, TONGUE, HEART, MIND, HANDS, FEET,

### THERE IS GOOD NEWS...

God was not satisfied leaving us in the disaster of sin. He did not leave us alone in our state of sin and misery. He sent His son to live the life we should have lived and die the death that we should have died. He came to save sinners.

v. 12 -15 give a perspective of a worthless man and then move to some specific areas of sin that "God hates"

Hidden within the text is a disguised word of Hope

v. 15 calamity will come suddenly

\*\* Don't fret. God will have the final word.

Don't forget the God who created us and Knows us.

All that happens does not go unnoticed by God.

Connection to verse 16...a further description of the 'worthless man'

Note that lying is mentioned twice.

16 There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 Haughty eyes,

I spoke about Pride a few weeks ago, so I refer you back to that sermon. Haughty eyes is a picturesque way of describing Pride.

a lying tongue, - also mentioned in v 19 so I'll combine them here

Godly speaking is defined by speaking the truth in love.

Lying is of the Devil who is the father of lies.

Sadly, we live in a world where we don't really expect to hear the truth from people be they salesmen or saleswomen, politicians, journalists, pundits, doctors, lawyers, academics, or preachers.

Wise godly speech is moderate and self-controlled.

"Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin." [13:3]

"Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble." [21:23]

"The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things." [15:28]

"Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him." [29:20]

And, most famously, 10:19:

"When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent."

It is better to remain quiet and be thought of as a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt. Prov 17:27-28 "Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding. Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent."

#3 Prov 6:19 A false witness who utters lies, (speaking and listening)

This is related to the 9<sup>th</sup> Commandment regarding bearing false witness and it relates to gossip.  
WSC

Q. 76. Which is the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Q. 77. What is required in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment requires the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness bearing.

Q. 78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment?

A. The ninth commandment forbids whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own, or our neighbor's, good name.

Speech and truth are big topics in Proverbs. One pastor found 111 verses in Proverbs that deal with speech. We see that speech is an index of our character as our words reveal what is in our hearts.

A kind, loving, sympathetic heart will be revealed by our words as well as an angry judgmental heart. Our words reveal if we are living for the glory of God or the glory of Self.

Our speech is more serious than we might think since "death and life are in the power of the tongue." While I'm not a 'name it - claim it' or 'speak something into existence' theologian, they are onto something, i.e. there is power in the tongue - death and life. Prov 18:21

"A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul." [18:6-7]

My guess is that most of our regrets have to do with words that we have spoken.

Martin Lloyd Jones - "Look back and think of the time when you were unhappy, and you will find that it was almost certainly due to something you said and which you regretted for days". (Jones via Rayburn).

Hopefully your mom or dad taught you a simple rule of thumb: "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all." WHAT IF EVERYONE DID THAT?

Another version adapted from an 18<sup>th</sup> century German Lutheran, Johann Bengel, would be "If you don't know the facts, if there is no particular need for you to pass judgment, and if you can't do it with love for the other person, then keep your mouth shut."

#4 And hands that shed innocent blood,

Ever since Gen 4, murder has been a reality among the human race. It continues today on the individual and has been seen in genocide throughout human history.

#5 18 A heart that devises wicked plans,

#6 Feet that run rapidly to evil,

EX: scams and online predators. People use their God given intelligence for evil schemes.

Psalm 10:2 In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted;

Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.

3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire,

And the greedy man curses and spurns the Lord.

4 The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him.

All his thoughts are, "There is no God."

Just watch the news or read headlines to see how destructive these are and we see why God hates them.

## #7 And one who spreads strife among brothers.

Rather than being a peacemaker, these are those who spread or sow division and strife among those who should be united, i.e. brothers- a term used with a wide meaning to include literal family members or metaphorical relationship of affinity.

Scripture warns against such troublemakers...

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, 11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Jude 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

We might call them busybodies who move in and out causing strife and disputes over unprofitable and worthless subjects. They weaponize differences and concerns as they encourage people to take different sides.

Such people tend to see themselves as experts on the issues at hand and are quick to create friction.

As Jude notes, this is 'worldly minded, devoid of the Spirit'. This is how the world functions. Since it is of the world, it can be found in families, the work place, in recreation, in politics, academics, medicine, law, business, etc.

You may have a mental picture of such a person even as I speak.

One passage that lays bare the heart behind divisiveness is **Romans 16:17-18**:

**I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.**

This can happen as one serves his/her own appetites to create division on things that God does not divide. Perhaps they seek a clean black/white distinction on an issue that has a good bit of gray. Typically, this deals with differences over issues of Christian Liberty in areas where scripture does not give clear specific guidelines.

This approach may be 'baptized' with religious language or arguments. What are examples of such areas???

EX: issues of schooling; College campus ministers have seen students get into heated fights about how they were schooled i.e. Homeschool vs Christian School vs Public School. Whose parents were right and most loving???

EX: Worship style preferences in music; level of political engagement; Entertainment choices; Ministry involvement preferences; Dietary Convictions; Use of alcohol; Doctrinal Distinctives that are not major issues of salvation.

The one who spreads strife will sow suspicion, exaggerate the faults of another, misrepresent another's position, or even slander.

**These sins ARE NOT harmless. God HATES THEM** – let that sink in . .

The story is told of Saint Philip Neri (1515-1595) that he once gave an unusual penance to a novice who was guilty of gossip, a sin hardly one in ten thousand is not guilty of. Neri told the young monk to take a feather pillow to the top of the church tower on a blustery day and there release all the feathers to the wind. Then he had to come down from the tower, collect all the feathers dispersed far and wide over the countryside, and put them back into the pillow. Of course there was no way for him to do it; he could collect only a few of the feathers, not enough to remake the pillow, and that was Neri's point, driven home in an unforgettable way. The sins of the tongue, however easy to commit, are terribly difficult to undo.

So what do we need?

We need to know that God didn't leave us in our mess. HE CAME to be with us, to rescue us.

If you struggle with these, what do you most need? A verdict of affirmation of a verdict of guilt?  
NO we need the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And we need community and shepherds. We need Christ and each other.

THE ANTI-DOTE?

Remember that there is a God in heaven who will have the final word.

This God sent his Son to die for us.

He takes sin seriously. So should we.

He takes holiness seriously, and so should we.

He takes grace and forgiveness seriously, and so should we.

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Discussion Questions

What stood out to you from the text or the sermon?

Was there anything new or unexpected?

What broken world problem does this passage address?

Does it seem odd to talk about “what God hates”?

Do we see these sins the same way that god does?

How SHOULD we respond to lies, gossip, and words that spread strife? How DO we respond?

What would it look like if this or any church hated and avoided these things?