



# The Way of Wisdom

## *Seven Things God Hates*



By Daniel Kriss



# Lesson 1



## LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

## READING:

PROVERBS 1

## STUDY TEXT:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## THEME:

WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God

Promises of God

Principles for Life

Lessons to Learn

Examples to Follow

## FURTHER STUDY:

COLOSSIANS 1:9-10

JAMES 3:13-18

## MEMORY VERSE:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## PRAYER & PRAISE:

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## INTRODUCTION TO PROVERBS

### Authorship

The Book of Proverbs is a collection of writings from at least four different sources: (1) King Solomon (Proverbs 1:1); (2) The Sayings of the Wise (Proverbs 22:17-24:34); (3) Agur, the son of Jakeh (Proverbs 30:1) and; (4) King Lemuel (Proverbs 31:1). Neither Agur or King Lemuel are mentioned again in the Bible.

### Time of Writing

Trying to determine the exact time of writing is difficult. Most commentators agree that it was somewhere around 10<sup>th</sup> century BC. An interesting time indicator is found in Proverbs 25:1 which says, "*These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied.*" This likely means that chapters 25-29 were compiled and added to the original writings by Hezekiah's men between 715BC and 686BC.

### The Source of Wisdom

Solomon's wisdom was a gift from God (1 Kings 4:29), and the Bible says that "*Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt*" (1 Kings 4:30). Furthermore, we are told that Solomon spoke 3000 proverbs and wrote 1005 songs (1 Kings 4:32).

### The Purpose of the Book

The overarching purpose of the book is set out in the first chapter, "*to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth*" (Proverbs 1:4). This book falls into the category of Biblical Wisdom Literature and is poetic in genre.

### The Importance of Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is very unique, and it accomplishes what no other biblical book does: It simply and succinctly compiles numerous short instructions for living an effective and God-honouring life on earth. Proverbs is not primarily concerned with an exhaustive theological treatise, or recording lengthy narratives, it is entirely focused on instructing people in the path of wisdom. It is fiercely practical and covers a range of topics: matters of the heart, human relations, emotions, careers, marriage, adultery, suffering, parenting, discipline, family, morality and ethics, folly and foolishness, happiness, honesty, laziness, pride, riches, poverty, the use of alcohol, importance of hygiene, the nature of God, the nature of sin, outward beauty, anxiety, principles for the self-employed, compulsive talkers, friendship, widows and the fatherless, home-making, speech, life and death, modesty, procrastination, and these are just what I have found in my study!

### Understanding Proverbs

Because Proverbs is poetic in nature, some have over-emphasised its teaching to the point that they treat every commandment and the outcome associated with it as a promise. This is dangerous. Proverbs is not a book of promises, it is a book of wisdom. Just because you have obeyed a particular command does not automatically mean that you will have long-life, financial success, freedom from trials etc. The nature of wisdom-literature is that it promotes a way of life that honours God which means that the commands should be obeyed, but the outcomes are to be left in the Lord's hands.

## Defining Wisdom

Wisdom has been well-defined as “God’s perspective on any given situation.” From Solomon’s life we learn that it is one thing to obtain wisdom, but another thing entirely to walk in that wisdom. In Proverbs, wisdom is synonymous with instruction, knowledge, counsel, reproof, insight, prudence, understanding, and discretion. These terms are different facets of the same diamond.

## Wisdom in the New Testament

Paul commands the believer to “Walk in wisdom” (Colossians 4:5; Ephesians 5:15) and his prayer for the Colossian church is that they might be “*filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding*” (Colossians 1:9).

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## LESSON #1

### Read: Proverbs 6:16-19

Perhaps one of the most misunderstood realities about the character of God is the fact that he hates. This truth is repugnant to all seeker-sensitive, culture-focused, love-unites-and-doctrine-divides contemporary church strategists.

The Bible tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8), and for many, this necessitates that fact that He cannot hate. This is incorrect. In fact, for God to express love, He must by virtue of His perfections also express hatred for whatever opposes His character.

Throughout the Bible we are told that God does hate:

- God hates pride and arrogance: “*Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate*” (Proverbs 8:13).
- God hates robbery and wrong: “*For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong*” (Isaiah 61:8).
- God hates the devising of evil and loving a false oath: “*do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the LORD*” (Zechariah 8:17).
- God hates corruption in doctrine and practice: “*Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate*” (Revelation 2:6).

## Application

Genuine love hates. It is right for God to hate that which stands opposed to His perfection. Because God is the author of life, He hates abortion. Because God instituted monogamous, heterosexual marriage, God hates divorce, adultery, homosexuality, and all other sexual perversions.

The Christian who is to be like God also must operate with a holy hate.

- Reverence for God means a hatred for evil: “*The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil*” (Proverbs 8:13).
- God’s Word is truth therefore we hate falsehood: “*Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way*” (Psalm 119:104, 163)
- Hate evil and love good: “*Hate evil, and love good*” (Amos 5:18).
- Hate sin and our tendency towards it: “*For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate*” (Romans 7:15).

## Questions for Discussion

1. What is wisdom and how will it impact the life of a Christian?

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2. What is the source of spiritual wisdom?

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3. Read James 3:13-18. What are the two types of wisdom and how can you differentiate between them?

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4. If God is a “God of love” (and He is), how can we explain His holy hatred?

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5. How can the fact that God hates provide peace and comfort to the Christian?

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6. If God hates, and we are called to be like God, what are some things that we should hate?

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7. How will the biblical teaching of God’s hatred impact your walk with Him this week?

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## Homework

- Read Proverbs 1 at least 5 times this week
- Memorise the 7 things that God hates in Proverbs 6:16-19

## LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

## READING:

EXODUS 20:1-17

## STUDY TEXT:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## THEME:

WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God

Promises of God

Principles for Life

Lessons to Learn

Examples to Follow

## FURTHER STUDY:

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8

JAMES 2:1-4

## MEMORY VERSE:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## PRAYER & PRAISE:

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## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

### Read Proverbs 6:16-19

In the previous study, we were introduced to the theological truth that God hates. This is undoubtedly one of the most misunderstood and controversial truths about the character of God.

In this study, we will consider some specific things that God hates. In Proverbs 6:17-19, Solomon outlines seven things that are an abomination to the Lord: (1) haughty eyes; (2) a lying tongue; (3) hands that shed innocent blood; (4) a heart that devises wicked plans; (5) feet that make haste to run to evil; (6) a false witness that breathes out lies, and; (7) one who sows discord among brothers.

These seven sins are detestable to the Lord, and give us some insight into the mind, character, and will (desire) of God. As we commence this study, may God help us to understand His perspective on sin, and reveal to us every impurity and form of pride within.

### Detestable Sin #1: Haughty Eyes (6:17)

Literally, “eyes of loftiness; elated eyes.”

The word “haughty” is an adjective which means “proud and disdainful; high in one’s own estimation. Unlike many other words, this is not neutral but entirely negative. The term contains morality, and it is evil at every turn.

One commentator describes pride or haughtiness as “dust deifying itself”.

C.S. Lewis wrote this about pride:

*There is one vice of which no man in the world is free; which everyone loathes when he sees it in someone else; and of which hardly any people, except Christians, ever imagine that they are guilty themselves. I have heard people admit that they are bad-tempered, or that they cannot keep their heads about girls or drink, or even that they are cowards. I do not think I have ever heard anyone who was not a Christian accuse himself of this vice. And at the same time I have very seldom met anyone, who was not a Christian, who showed the slightest mercy to it in others. There is no fault that makes a man more unpopular, and no fault which we are more unconscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it ourselves, the more we dislike it in others.*

Pride is the root of all sin and it is a central theme in the book of Proverbs. James tells us that “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6).

### Examples of Pride in the Bible:

- It was pride (followed by disobedience) that brought the fall (Genesis 3:6).
- It was pride that cast Satan from heaven (Isaiah 14:12-14).
- It was pride that brought the ruin of Sodom and Gomorrah (Ezekiel 16:49).
- It was pride that prohibited salvation for a Pharisee (Pharisee & Tax Collector: Luke 18:9-14).
- It was pride that made King Nebuchadnezzar eat grass like an ox (Daniel 5:20).
- It was pride that afflicted the godly King Uzziah with leprosy (2 Chron. 26:16).
- It was pride that brought about the destruction of the church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:17).
- It is pride that goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18)

God detests pride, and in particular, eyes that look down upon others, and elevate themselves. Haughty eyes find their root in a conceited heart.

Again, C.S. Lewis is helpful:

*The essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere fleabites in comparison. It was through pride that the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other vice; it is the complete anti-God state of mind.*

When we are haughty, we become the center of our universe; everything revolves around us.

The Valet of an Emperor is recorded to have said, "I cannot deny that my master was vain. He had to be the central figure in everything. If he went to a christening, he wanted to be the baby. If he went to a wedding, he wanted to be the bride. If he went to a funeral, he wanted to be the corpse."

Perhaps the best example in the Bible of haughtiness is in James 2:1-4.

### **Read James 2:1-4**

Haughtiness is not only looking down, but also showing preference, having respect for some and not for others.

#### Examples of Haughty Eyes & Pride

- Making comparison in terms of possessions: cars, houses, clothing, money etc.
- How I view others – esteeming the rich, dishonouring the poor and less-fortunate.
- How I view myself – high self-esteem and low self-esteem (false modesty/humility).
- Constantly looking for self-affirmation.
- Expecting others to serve me instead of serving others.
- Offended when you are passed over and do not receive attention.
- The need to be the funniest, loudest, and the one who controls every conversation.
- Unwillingness to exist or function in the mundane.
- Unwillingness to allow your flaws to be seen (concealing true identity).
- Unwillingness to admit fault, defeat, and failure.
- Over-protection of what you esteem to be yours (finances, family, health, etc.).
- Controlled by other people's opinion of you.
- Self-justification.

### **Application**

The antidote for pride is an increasing understanding of God, His character, and His grace. What have we that has not been given to us (1 Corinthians 4:7)?

God's grace is humbling. It brings us back to the dust, it humiliates us (in a good way).

In Job 38-41 God asks Job more than 70 questions in quick succession. Each of these reminded Job of just how small and insignificant he was when compared to the glorious character of God. Isaiah 40 does something similar. It describes the majesty and glory of God in contrast to mankind who are portrayed as "grasshoppers" (Isaiah 40:22).

When a Christian understands the gospel, and that it is all of grace, he cannot but be brought low. His high estimation of himself is brought low on the basis of God's free grace; His low estimation of himself is obliterated by understanding that he was created in the image of God and chosen for salvation by sovereign grace.

Pride and humility cannot live peaceably – they are enemies. The flesh swims in pride; The Spirit brings grace to light. Kill pride and live in the Spirit. God hates pride and haughtiness – destroy every trace of it every day.

Charles Spurgeon said, *"Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self."*

Jonathan Edwards wrote, *"Nothing sets a Christian so much out of the devil's reach than humility."*

### Questions for Discussion

1. What are the seven things that the Lord hates?

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2. Explain what pride is according to the Bible.

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3. What are some ways that pride manifests itself in your life?

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4. How can a Christian kill pride each day? What are some practical steps to walking in humility?

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5. How did Jesus demonstrate humility according to Philippians 2:3-8

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6. According to Jeremiah 9:23-24, what should the believer "boast" in?

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7. How will the biblical teaching of God's hatred of pride impact your life this week?

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### Homework

- Read Proverbs 2 at least 5 times this week
- Memorise the 7 things that God hates in Proverbs 6:16-19

# Lesson 3



## LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

## READING:

EPHESIANS 4:17-25

## STUDY TEXT:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## THEME:

WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God  
Promises of God  
Principles for Life  
Lessons to Learn  
Examples to Follow

## FURTHER STUDY:

ACTS 5:1-11  
COLOSSIANS 3:9-10

## MEMORY VERSE:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## PRAYER & PRAISE:

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## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

### Read Proverbs 6:16-19

In the previous study, we considered the fact that pride is the root of all sin, and something that God repudiates. When pride takes hold of us, we become the center of our universe, and rob God of the glory that He alone is worthy of.

In this study, we will consider the next sin that God hates, namely, a lying tongue.

### Detestable Sin #2: A Lying Tongue (6:17)

The intent to deceive as well as the propagation of falsehood is here inferred.

This second detestable sin is not obscure or vague. It is simple, straightforward, and uncomplicated.

God hates every form of falsehood.

God's perfection means that he cannot lie (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). It is the nature of all who have fallen from their state of innocence to lie: The devil is the father of lies (John 8:44); all mankind are liars in their sinful state (Colossians 3:9); believers can (and do) lie (Genesis 12:13; Genesis 27:19; Acts 5:1-11)

### What does the Bible say about Lies & Liars?

- Liars have the devil as their father (John 8:44).
- Liars will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 21:8).
- Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 12:22).
- To lie is to break God's moral law – part of the 10 commandments (Exodus 20:16).
- Consciences are seared through lies (1 Timothy 4:2).
- Compulsive lying (a life of falsehood) cannot continue after justification (Colossians 3:9-10).
- Lies originate from a spiritual heart disorder (Matthew 15:19).
- Lying incurs God's wrath and will not go unpunished (Proverbs 19:5)
- Lying is a part of the old self, the sin nature (Colossians 3:9)

### What is Lying?

1. **Outright falsehood** – bold-faced lies (lies of commission). The one who tells them is well aware that he has communicated a falsehood.
2. **False Promises** – Promises people make that they have no intention of keeping. This is deliberately misleading people.
3. **Flattery** – People want to make a favourable impression, so they say nice things that they do not mean or do not believe to be true. Excessive praise.
4. **Omission** (half-truths) – Leaving out relevant information that the hearer requires. It is easier and least risky. It doesn't involve inventing any stories. It is passive deception. Discuss difference between omission and confidentiality.
5. **Restructuring**—distorting the context. Saying something in sarcasm, changing the characters, or the altering the scene.
6. **Self-Deception** – People who don't want to face reality can sometimes convince themselves to believe things that they really know are not true.
7. **Minimisation**—Reducing the effects of a mistake, a fault, or a judgment call.



8. **Exaggeration** (embellishment) — A statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is.
9. **Silence** — Concealing activities or things we know we should confess or admit but remain silent to protect ourselves.
10. **Plagiarism** — Copying someone else's work and calling it your own. What does this mean for AI?
11. **Evasion** — Misdirection in an attempt to evade answering a question directly.
12. **Vagueness** — Spinning a web of deceit through the use of double negatives and distorting communication.
13. **False Teaching** — Speaking on behalf of God as a teacher, but communicating untrue or misleading statements. Prophesying falsely in God's name (Refer: Jeremiah 29:9; Ezekiel 22:28; 1 Timothy 4:1-2).

## Application

Since God has a holy hatred for lying lips, we must be very careful to ensure we speak the truth at all times.

As a Christian, God commands us to put away lying (Colossians 3:9; Ephesians 4:25).

How can this be done?

1. **Learn to love the truth – love Jesus – He is the truth:**  
*Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).*
2. **Remember that God delights in truth:**  
*"Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart" (Psalm 51:6).*
3. **Falsehood is overcome by God's Word:**  
*"Put false ways far from me and graciously teach me your law!" (Psalm 119:29).*
4. **Pray for deliverance:**  
*"Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue" (Psalm 120:2).*
5. **Meditate on truth:**  
*"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8)*
6. **Avoid influences that do not reinforce truth:**  
*"An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue (Proverbs 17:4). "No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes" (Psalm 101:7).*

Lies destroy a Christian's testimony, and worse, dishonour the Lord. It is of paramount importance that believers live, interact with, and uphold a standard of perpetual truth. Since we are called to be like Jesus, and He is the embodiment of grace and truth (John 1:17), it is incumbent upon us to pursue truth in our thinking, speech, and activities.

## Helpful Quotes

*"A little lie is like a little pregnancy-it doesn't take long before everyone knows."* - C.S. Lewis

*"A lie is like a snowball: the further you roll it the bigger it becomes."* - Martin Luther

*"There is no such thing as white lies; a lie is as black as a coal pit, and twice as foul."* - Henry Beecher

*"Truth has no degrees or shades. A half truth is a whole lie, and a white lie is really black."* - John MacArthur

*"Falsehood is cowardice, the truth courage."* - Hosea Ballou

*"A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes."* - Charles Spurgeon

## Questions for Discussion

1. What are the seven things that the Lord hates?

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2. Explain what lying is according to the Bible.

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3. What form(s) of lying are you most likely to commit and why?

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4. How can a Christian gain the victory over a lying tongue? What are some practical steps to walking in truth?

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5. How does Luke 8:17, 2 Corinthians 5:10, and Hebrews 4:13 motivate to live a life free from falsehood?

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6. Read Ephesians 4:22-25. List some reasons for putting away falsehood.

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7. How will the biblical teaching of God's hatred of a lying tongue impact your life this week?

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## Homework

- Read Proverbs 3 at least 5 times this week.
- Memorise Ephesians 4:25.

## LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

## READING:

JAMES 4:1-10

## STUDY TEXT:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## THEME:

WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God

Promises of God

Principles for Life

Lessons to Learn

Examples to Follow

## FURTHER STUDY:

ROMANS 12:19

MATTHEW 26:52-54

## MEMORY VERSE:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## PRAYER & PRAISE:

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## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

### Read Proverbs 6:16-19

In the previous study, we considered the fact that God hates lies and all forms of falsehood. Since lies destroy a Christian's testimony, and worse, dishonour the Lord, it is of paramount importance that believers live, interact with, and uphold a standard of perpetual truth

In this study, we will consider the next sin that God hates, namely, hands that shed innocent blood.

### Detestable Sin #3: Hands that Shed Innocent Blood (6:17)

Literally, "Murderous hands. Hands that drip with innocent blood."

#### God hates murder and always has.

Example 1: The First Children: Cain & Abel

*Genesis 4:8-10 Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."*

Example 2: The Decalogue - 6th Commandment:

*Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder."*

Example 3: Manasseh's Murderous Reign:

*2 Kings 24:3-4 Surely this came upon Judah at the command of the LORD, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, and also for the innocent blood that he had shed. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD would not pardon.*

Example 4: Judah & Jerusalem's Wickedness

*Isaiah 1:15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.*

*Isaiah 59:3, 7 For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways.*

#### God loves life because He is the life-giver and life-sustainer.

*Psalms 36:9 For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.*

*Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.*

*Psalms 139:13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

*Acts 17:24-26 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.*

To promote and sustain life is to be like God.

To destroy life is to be devilish.

Speaking of Satan, Jesus said, *"He was a murderer from the beginning"* (John 8:44).

To take another's life is to assume the role of God who alone has the right to decide who lives and dies.

### **What is meant by "Innocent Blood" (is anyone innocent)?**

The Bible is not here speaking of one who is without sin, but rather, one who has not committed a crime worthy of death by capital punishment.

### **What about Capital Punishment?**

Capital punishment is not murder. In God's economy, capital punishment is to be meted out to those who have shed innocent blood with intent (not manslaughter or accidental death).

*Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."*

## **Application**

What possible applications can be drawn here for the church? Here are four truths to consider:

### **1. Murder as an Act**

Most of us are not guilty of murder. In fact, we probably repudiate the very notion of committing such a vile act. Before we get too high and mighty, let's remember that Moses and David were both murderers and the Bible tells us that worldly Christians in the first century were guilty of murder.

*James 4:1-4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

### **2. Murder as a Thought**

God hates hate.

*1 John 3:15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*

*Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.*

Ever thought (or said) "I wish you'd just drop dead" or "I wish I were dead?" These are murderous thoughts. These comments or patterns of thinking drip with innocent blood and God abhors this.

### **3. Murder Vicariously**

If you support abortive surgery, euthanasia, or fighting in the army for your country, you are guilty of murder vicariously.

Some may take offence with me at this point, but this is what the Bible teaches. It is never okay to actively, passively, or mentally murder. Complications in pregnancy, turning off life support, or signing up to kill the country's enemies are all ways of terminating lives unlawfully.

### **4. Suicide as Murder**

Terminating one's own life is also murder. Again, God is the giver of life and only He is permitted to bring it to conclusion. Thoughts of suicide are also evil.



Now let me be quick to say that if you entertain these thoughts, PLEASE get help now. Seek biblical counselling so that you can understand and appreciate the value of the life that God has given to you. Suicide at its core is a misunderstanding of God and His purpose for your life. The answer to overcoming suicidal thoughts is to see life as a gift from God which is precious and has a purpose.

### Questions for Discussion

1. What are the seven things that the Lord hates?

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2. According to James 3:1-2, where does the desire and action for murder originate?

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3. Read Exodus 2:11-14; 2 Samuel 11:14-24; Acts 7:54-60. In these three examples try to identify the root cause or the reason each murder took place. What led the murderer to take this action?

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4. How can a Christian gain the victory over hating his brother (equivalent to murder)?

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5. If abortion and euthanasia are sins that God hates, what hope is there for a Christian who has agreed to, or approved of, these forms of murder in the past?

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6. How will the biblical teaching of God's hatred of hands that shed innocent blood impact your life this week?

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### Homework

- Read Proverbs 4 at least 5 times this week.
- Memorise Romans 12:19

## LESSON OUTLINE:

## PRAY

## READ

## ENGAGE

**ANSWER**

## CONNECT

## HOMework

**READING:**

MICAH 2:1-3

### STUDY TEXT:

## PROVERBS 6:16-19

**THEME:**

## WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

- A**tributes of God
- P**romises of God
- P**inciples for Life
- L**essons to Learn
- E**xamples to Follow

### FURTHER STUDY:

PSALM 64:1-6

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

## PROVERBS 6:16-19

### PRAYER & PRAISE:

## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

## Read Proverbs 6:16-19

In the previous study, we considered the fact that God hates hands that shed innocent blood. This was not merely limited to murder as a decisive act, but also the hatred of others, a passivity towards the termination of life, and suicide.

In this study, we will consider the next sin that God hates, namely, a heart that devises wicked plans.

## Detestable Sin #4: A Heart that Devises Wicked Plans (6:18)

## What is the heart?

The word “heart” here is not speaking of the physical blood-pumping organ. The author is referring to the inner man, that invisible place where decisions are made: the mind, the will, and the understanding.

In Hebrew thought, the heart encompassed the immaterial aspects of a person and was used interchangeably with the mind, emotions, spirit, and will.

The heart is the place where sin is spawned. The old adage is true, “At the heart of every problem is a problem in the heart.” Even before the neurons (or nerve cells) are sent from the brain to various parts of the body to perform a prohibited activity, the heart has already sinned. Before your eyes are haughty, before a lie is on your tongue, and before your hands shed innocent blood, the heart has already betrayed you.

Jesus made this point clear in Mark 7:21-22:

*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.*

Before salvation, our hearts were entirely dark and depraved. Jeremiah writes, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick”* (Jeremiah 17:9).

When a person is saved, God gives him a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26). However, even with a new heart, the believer is still capable of devising wicked plans and performing them. This is because of indwelling sin. Paul makes it clear in Romans 7:15-25 that all believers fight and wrestle with two laws in the heart: the law of God, and the law of sin.

On the subject of the indwelling law of sin, John Owen writes:

*“This enemy is never quiet and never conquered. No man can expect rest from his lust, except by its death, or of absolute freedom except by his own death. Some seek peace from their corruptions by trying to satisfy them, ‘making provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof,’ as the apostle calls it (Romans 13:14). This is to douse a fire using combustible materials. They will only inflame and increase it.”*

### What does it mean to “devise wicked plans?”

The word “devises” carries the idea of an engraving, etching, ploughing or fabricating.” It is clearly proactive, intentional, and premeditated. The individual is designing and contriving wickedness. Making plans to perform evil.

The heart spoken of here is guilty of making evil plans against God and man. It is what we call the sin of commission – deliberate, calculated, and with purpose.

## **Examples of Devising Wicked Plans:**

There are many forms of this sin but the common denominator is intentionality, preparation, and premeditation. Here are some examples for your consideration:

- (a) Intentionally planning ways to tear down a person's reputation for personal gain – slander/gossip. Hate speech, libel, defamation.
- (b) Theft on the basis of greed and covetousness.
- (c) Telling a dirty joke with the lads because you want to fit in.
- (d) Actively obscuring money in your business to avoid paying taxes.
- (e) Confessing your sin with every intention of committing it again later:  
E.g. Pornography – “I’ll make this right so I can worship or partake of communion, but I will do it again later.”
- (f) Planned immodesty that causes people to notice and admire your physique or be sexually aroused.
- (g) Vindictive behaviours. “He did this to me, so I’m doing this to him...”
- (h) Purposefully interacting with a fallen countenance so others enquire or provide empathy.
- (i) Planning excuses for disobedience. E.g. “I’ll tell my mum that I was at a friend’s house.”
- (j) Provide bad counsel so that others fail (Ezekiel 11:2).
- (k) Deciding to watch something because you enjoy it even though it grieves the Holy Spirit.
- (l) Homicide.
- (m) Hurtful pranks and mischief (Proverbs 24:8-9 *“Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer. The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind.”*)

## **Evil Agendas Invoke Swift Judgment**

Not only does God hate a heart that devises wicked plans, but He also promises to bring judgment upon those who operate with one. [Read Micah 2:1-3](#)

Premeditated wickedness, evil agendas, and deliberate, intentional wrongdoing will be met with swift and severe judgment.

James writes, *“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin” (James 4:17).*

## **Application**

God has called His people to plan good and not evil.

The Christian ought to perform premeditated acts of encouragement that pour forth from a holy heart!

Consider how you can “pour coals of fire” on your enemy’s head, bring light and hope to those in despair, and exhibit joy and love toward the household of faith.

It is one thing to *not* devise wicked plans, but it is another thing entirely to actively look for opportunities to bless others. The former is concerned with *not* sinning, the latter is concerned with living for others.

*1 Peter 3:9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.*

*Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.*

*Proverbs 11:25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Hebrews 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Begin by praying for those in your direct circle of influence. Ask the Lord to reveal to you the best ways to minister to those you work with, individuals in the community, your brothers and sisters in Christ, members of your family, and your enemies and detractors.

Since God repudiates a heart that intentionally and wilfully plots evil schemes, it is essential that we constantly put our hearts on trial before the Word of God and in prayerful examination. We must take inventory of our thought processes, intentions, and purposes. Like the Psalmist we must pray, *“Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind” (Psalm 26:2).*

### Questions for Discussion

1. What are the seven things that the Lord hates?

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2. According to Proverbs 12:20, what accompanies the devising of evil? What is promised to those who plan peace?

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3. Describe in some detail what is meant by the term “heart” in the Bible. Look up Zechariah 7:10 and Zechariah 8:17 and explain what the commands in these verses mean.

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4. What physical mannerisms does the Bible associate with evil planning in Proverbs 16:30?

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5. What title does the Bible give those who plot evil in Proverbs 24:8; Isaiah 32:7?

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6. How will the biblical teaching of God’s hatred of hearts that devise wicked plans impact your life this week?

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### Homework

- Read Proverbs 5 at least 5 times this week.
- Memorise Proverbs 12:20



## LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY  
READ  
ENGAGE  
ANSWER  
CONNECT  
HOMEWORK

## READING:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## STUDY TEXT:

PROVERBS 6:18

## THEME:

WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God  
Promises of God  
Principles for Life  
Lessons to Learn  
Examples to Follow

## FURTHER STUDY:

PSALM 1;  
COLOSSIANS 2:6;  
PSALM 119:133

## MEMORY VERSE:

1 JOHN 2:6

## PRAYER & PRAISE:

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## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

### Read Proverbs 6:16-19

There's an old Sunday School song which is incredibly relevant to our studies in Proverbs 6:16-19. I'm not sure if the lyricist had our text in mind, but it certainly is in alignment.

The words are: *"O be careful little eyes what you see; O be careful little ears what you hear; O be careful little tongue what you say; O be careful little hands what you do; O be careful little feet where you go; O be careful little heart what you think. For the Father up above is looking down in love, so be careful little eyes/ears/tongue/hands/feet/heart what you see/hear/say/do/go/think."*

Our last study focused on the fourth detestable sin of Proverbs 6:16-19, namely, "a heart that devises wicked plans." In this lesson, we arrive at the fifth detestable sin and you will see, there is much to learn in this study.

### Detestable Sin #5: Feet that Make Haste to Run to Evil (6:18)

This is the final body part mentioned in this catalogue of vices. Solomon has mentioned the eyes, the tongue, the hands, the heart, and now, the feet. In our sinful state we are altogether unclean - from the crown of our head to the heels of our feet.

The Hebrew word for feet primarily speaks of the terminal portion of the leg which bears weight and enables locomotion. However, it also represents direction of life, choices, and steps.

In the anatomical sense, feet are essential to balance, movement, direction, and weight-bearing. When feet fail the body is severely incapacitated. On the other hand, when the 100+ tendons, muscles, and ligaments in each foot are working correctly, the person can walk, run, climb, and engage in countless other activities.

In our text, Solomon tells us that God hates *"feet that make haste to run to evil."*

Literally, "feet that run rapidly to perform evil deeds" or "feet that be swift in running towards mischief."

There seems to be a process or chain of events in verses 17 & 18:

1. The heart devises or fabricates the wicked plans and;
2. The feet run swiftly to perform those evil campaigns.

If the heart is left unattended, it will soon engage the feet to fulfil all its purposes. Here again is reason to be vigilant in guarding the heart (Proverbs 4:23).

Here is an important truth: What the heart conceptualises the feet materialises!

Notice from our text that there is no restraint or delay on the part of the feet. They move quickly and immediately to accomplish wickedness.

The feet not only perform deeds of mischief, but they do it eagerly. This is "sin's sprint."

When the feet should be employed in the service of Christ, in maintaining spiritual balance, and in running towards good, they are instead found pursuing evil at a rapid rate.

The feet that should be beautiful from preaching the good tidings of the gospel (Romans 10:15), are instead sullied from running through the mire and filth of this world.

In preparing this study, I found myself chasing (pun intended) an unusual subject through the Bible – the subject of feet. I looked up the Hebrew and Greek words for “feet” and read every occurrence in the Bible. Surprisingly, the Scripture says a lot about feet. The Hebrew word for feet occurs 246 times and the Greek equivalent 78 times.

Let me share two of the many interesting principles I found about feet in the Bible which will help us understand God’s perspective on righteous living, or in other words, “clean feet.”

1. Cleansing the Feet: Before entering the tabernacle, God commanded the priests to wash their hands AND feet so that they might not die on the basis of defilement (This references both the physical dirtiness of the feet and the spiritual): *“They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die”* (Exodus 30:21). This symbolises repentance and cleansing.

2. Sin Scars! Proverbs 6:28 says, “...Can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? In this context, the one who chases evil is walking on hot coals and will bear the awful repercussions of immense pain, scarring, long-term recovery, and runs the risk of a permanently tottering gait.

## 10 Places or Situations that the Christian’s Feet Should Not be Found:

As with all things, it is easy to see the more flagrant, bold-faced evil, and those who run towards it. For example: suicide bombers, murderers, rapists, arsonists and so on. However, there are less-visible sins which we as God’s people may be running towards. Let me give you 10 examples to think about. I have assigned titles to the following locations to aid with remembering and making notes.

**1. PLACE #1: The Path of Enticement** – Read Proverbs 1:10-16 (v.15 hold back your foot from their paths). The place where you know temptation is rife and almost irresistible. The place where there is direct, concentrated influence towards evil (Psalm 1:1). “Friends” who lead you astray. DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS PATH - FLEE FROM IT!

**2. PLACE #2: The Chamber of Sexual Promiscuity** – Read Proverbs 5:1-6 (also Proverbs 7:6-27). This includes brothels, pornography, marital affairs, fornication, adultery, sexting, all other forms of sexual defilement. DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS CHAMBER - FLEE FROM IT!

**3. PLACE #3: The Stronghold of Private Addictions** - “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be dominated by anything” (1 Corinthians 6:12). This may include alcoholism and drunkenness, substance abuse, gambling, compulsive hoarding, shopping, exercise, eating, cleaning, etc. DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS STRONGHOLD - FLEE FROM IT!

**4. PLACE #4: The House of Domestic Abuse** – *“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart”* (1 Peter 1:22). This includes physical, verbal, sexual, and emotional abuse, spousal rape, manipulation, threats and more. These forms of abuse are evil and do not originate in love and a pure heart. DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS HOUSE - FLEE FROM IT!

**5. PLACE #5: The Sinful Digital Playground** (I.E digital feet that run to evil) – sites you look up, YouTube videos, Facebook posts, Tweets, Instagram, games that promote evil – (E.G. Grand Theft Auto), music and movies which promote that which God hates. I am regularly amazed by what Christians post on social media. Things they would never do, say, or wear when with fellow believers. It is truly astonishing! DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS PLAYGROUND - FLEE FROM IT!

**6. PLACE #6: The Bed of Laziness** – *“I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down”* (Proverbs 24:30-31). When you should be ploughing, you are sleeping; when you should be reading the Word, you are binge-watching Netflix; when you should be engaged in spiritual activities, you are occupied with less-important matters; when something should be done today, you are procrastinating. DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS BED - FLEE FROM IT!

**7. PLACE #7: The Treasury of Wealth** – *“But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction” (1 Timothy 6:9).* Consumed with a passion to be rich and achieve this goal at any cost. Often accompanied by fraud, tax evasion, deceitful schemes, double-dealing, and trickery. **DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS TREASURY - FLEE FROM IT!**

**8. PLACE #8: The Den of Rebellion** – *“An evil man seeks only rebellion” (Proverbs 17:11); “Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 16:5).* Essentially this is pride in varied forms and includes active rebellion, being obstinate, always having to be right, uncooperative, insubordinate, divisive, contrary, antagonistic, inflexible, and unyielding. Examples: children disobeying parents, employees disregarding the wishes of their boss, Christians ignoring what their elders/pastors tell them to do (so far as it’s biblical), citizens violating the rules set out by their government. **DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS DEN - FLEE FROM IT!**

**9. PLACE #9: The Office of Personal Rights** - As servants (bond-slaves) of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1), we have relinquished all personal rights. We are to uphold only that which relates to our Master and furthers His Kingdom on earth. **DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS OFFICE - FLEE FROM IT!**

**10. PLACE #10: The Shrine of Accolades** - *“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets” (Luke 6:26); “For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10).* The Christian is not to run towards the praise and approval of men. His agenda should not include inciting personal commendation or plaudits. **DO NOT RUN TOWARDS THIS SHRINE - FLEE FROM IT!**

## How to Safeguard Against Feet that Run towards Evil

Let’s turn to a few passages and I will outline practical safeguards from each.

### 1. SALVATION: Read Romans 6:20-23

The only way to be freed from the penalty, power, and presence of sin is by virtue of the new birth, that is, to be saved from sin through Christ’s substitutionary death on your behalf. Once saved, you are a new creature (1 Corinthians 5:17) and you cannot continue in your former lifestyle:

*“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)*

### 2. VIGILANCE: Read Proverbs 4:23-27

There are four key aspects to be vigilant in this text and these relate to those who are believers:

1. Guard your heart (v.23).
2. Ponder the path of your feet (v.26).
3. Do not swerve from the right path (v.27a).
4. Turn your feet from the direction of evil (v.27b).

### 3. PROTECTION: Read Psalm 119:59, 101, 105

There are three key protective mechanisms for the believer in these verses:

1. Think (meditate) on the ways of God (v.59).
2. Active restraint in order to obey God’s Word (v.101).
3. Illumine the path and direction of the feet through Scripture’s light (v.105).

## Overcoming Evil Involves Two Important Acts:

1. Flee from evil (1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22).
2. Follow (pursue) good (1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22).

Left to ourselves, we will run towards evil; it is essential that the opposite is true when we embrace the Christian life.

If we would defeat (or mortify) sin on a daily basis, we must RUN towards what is good and right. Like Joseph, we must flee temptation and every opportunity to do what is wrong even if it means loss, false accusation, and unlawful imprisonment.

## Conclusion

As believers, we are no longer bound in the prison-house of sin on account of God's saving grace. We do not HAVE to run towards evil, but sometimes we still choose to.

Hopefully this study reminds you that to chase hard after sin is to engage in activity that God hates. A true Christian when confronted with this reality cannot continue in a lifestyle that displeases his Lord.

As regenerated creatures with new appetites, affections, attitudes and activities, why would we chase after the evil that crucified our Lord? Why would we eat the husks from the pig pen when we could be enjoying the banquet at God's table? Where are you running? What are you chasing?

Chase Christ; chase His Word; chase righteousness; chase holiness - for God hates *"feet that make haste to run to evil."*

## Questions for Discussion

1. What are the seven things that the Lord hates?

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2. Which of the "10 Places" in this Study are most relevant to you? How will you actively protect yourself from entering these dangerous locations?

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3. Read 1 John 2:6; Psalm 1:1-3; 1 Peter 2:21. What do these texts teach about our "feet" (walk)?

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4. How will the biblical teaching of God's hatred of *"feet that make haste to run to evil"* impact your life this week?

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## Homework

- Read Proverbs 6 at least 5 times this week.
- Memorise 1 John 2:6



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## READING:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## STUDY TEXT:

PROVERBS 6:19

## THEME:

WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God

Promises of God

Principles for Life

Lessons to Learn

Examples to Follow

## FURTHER STUDY:

ROMANS 12:9-21

1 PETER 3:8

PSALM 26

## MEMORY VERSE:

EPHESIANS 4:29

## PRAYER & PRAISE:

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## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

### Read Proverbs 6:16-19

Our last study focused on the fifth detestable sin of Proverbs 6:16-19, namely, “feet that make haste to run to evil.” In this lesson, we arrive at the sixth and second last sin that God hates.

### Detestable Sin #6: A False Witness who Breathes out Lies (6:19)

Looking at this catalogue of detestable sins, you may have observed that lying has already been referred to in verse 17 (“a lying tongue”). So why is it mentioned again in the same list?

Before we launch into the specifics of this sixth detestable sin, I think it is safe to say that God repudiates all forms of deceit seeing that it is listed twice here! Let me be clear: what the world calls “white lies” God hates; what some refer to as a bending of the truth, God detests. What we might describe as embellishment or exaggeration, God decrees to be odious.

We are again reminded that we do not take our moral cues from society, our families, or our own heart, the only objective moral truth by which we must live is the unchanging Word of God.

Let me be quick to say, if you decide to live in accord with God’s Word, you will not be popular. The world, our culture, and even Christendom on the whole is on a trajectory of rapid and rampant moral decline. Evil is increasing, and like an unpaid mortgage, the interest is compounding as we move toward absolute moral bankruptcy and depravity. The image of God is being continually marred and the conscience is being silenced earlier and earlier.

That which is detested by God is now being celebrated by man. The Bible tells us in Romans 1:28-30 that one of the marks of a debased mind is deceit.

On the flip side, one of the biblical characteristics of a Christian is truth-telling. In a world entrenched in deceit, fake news, false propaganda, and one that is under the reign of the Father of Lies, the believer must be a beacon of light and truth. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all, and this is the standard by which we too must exist.

Now to our text.

This sixth detestable sin is different to the second in that it is concerned primarily with social and judicial slander. The former deals with the general sin of lying whereas the latter brings into focus the eighth commandment which says, “*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour*” (Exodus 20:16).

In other words, we are dealing with the sin of perjury, that is, misrepresenting the truth as a witness before a court, tribunal, or gathering.

The word “*witness*” is a legal term which is used of one who gives testimony in order to establish the truth.

The first reference to lying in Proverbs 6:17 is general, and may not directly cause damage to another’s reputation. However, the “*false witness who breathes out lies*” (Proverbs 6:19) is actively engaged in robbing his neighbour of his reputation, and poisoning social life. Furthermore, he is destroying the justice between man and man.

One commentator said: *"Much hurt doth the deceitful and lying witness, for he corrupteth the judge, oppreseth the innocent, suppresseth the truth, and in the courts of justice sinneth against his own soul and the Lord Himself most grievously."*

### **Biblical Examples:**

#### **1. Matthew 26:57-68**

Jesus was brought before the Jewish Council (Sanhedrin) to be tried by their judicial system. According to Deuteronomy 19:15, *"Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established."* It was a sham court hearing because the judges (the chief priests) were looking for an opportunity to pronounce the death sentence on Jesus.

This is the very definition of what Solomon was referring to as a *"false witness who breaths out lies."*

#### **2. Acts 6:8-15**

Stephen was seized and brought before the Jewish council who had set up false witnesses against him. This resulted in the death of an innocent man, and even Saul (before conversion) was party to this injustice (Acts 7:58, 8:1).

### **Application**

Now at this point it is important that we do not dismiss this odious sin on the basis of our lack of connection to the justice system. Perhaps you have never been called upon to serve jury duty and have never even darkened the doors of a court room.

The sin of perjury is not confined to the courtroom but extends to many other areas that do connect with our daily lives. Let me remind you that this sin is dealing with bearing false witness against our neighbour, and that is by no means exclusively judicial in nature.

### **Practical Examples:**

#### **1. Opportunity to Advance your Career by Smearing the Reputation of Another**

This is rife in the areas of politics and career development.

#### **2. Falsely Accusing a Sibling Before your Parents to Avoid Punishment**

Who ate the last cookie? Who broke the lamp?

#### **3. Casting your Vote with the Majority Against an Individual to Save Face**

Rather than standing up and standing out when injustice has been done, we cave, and misrepresent the truth on the basis of wanting to comply with the majority.

#### **4. Sullyng the Reputation of Another for Personal Gain**

This involves a plan to poison the reputation of another so that we might gain some personal advantage. This is precisely the opposite of love.

#### **5. Conspiring with Others to Intentionally Discredit Another Person**

This is sadly a reality in churches and Christian organisations.

A group of people organise themselves and take up arms against another for the purpose of bringing them down and discrediting their character. This is sometimes referred to as character assassination, and often leads to a full-blown mutiny.

The fastest way to do this is to fabricate a moral failure on the part of the person the group wishes to shame. A false scandal is spawned, and the individual is humiliated publicly, which often leads to the total smearing of a person's reputation.

Many-a-victim of this kind of behaviour (especially in Christianity) is paralysed for life. The damage is irreparable, and their future ministry (if any) is filled with sorrow, discouragement, and distrust of others.

## Dealing with Mutinies, False Accusations & Defamation

I want to take a moment to discuss what the Bible says about this and the right response to this evil when it is thrust upon us.

The following truths are from two sources: Scripture and experience

### 1. As truth-telling, righteous-living Christians you will be persecuted.

*"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Timothy 3:12).*

### 2. This persecution WILL include false accusation and character assassination.

*"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account" (Matthew 5:11)*

### 3. This persecution may include being dragged before courts, rulers, and authorities.

*"Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles" (Matthew 10:17-18).*

### 4. The most heart-wrenching humiliation is wrought by those closest in whom you trusted.

E.G. Joseph's brothers (Genesis 37:18-20); the rebellious people of Israel who wanted to choose a new leader and return to Egypt (Numbers 14:4); King Joash's servants who made a conspiracy and killed him (2 Kings 12:19-20); Delilah to Samson (Judges 16:4-21); Daniel's workmates in Babylon (Daniel 6:14-17); Judas Iscariot (Luke 22:3-6).

### 5. Rejoice in, submit to, and rely upon God's future retribution of evildoers.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, *"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord (Romans 12:19)."*

*A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish (Proverbs 19:9)*

*They open wide their mouths against me; they say, "Aha, Aha! Our eyes have seen it!" You have seen, O Lord; be not silent! O Lord, be not far from me! Awake and rouse yourself for my vindication, for my cause, my God and my Lord! (Psalm 35:21-23)*

*Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good (1 Peter 4:19).*

READ: Psalm 26

### 6. Respond like Jesus when faced with betrayal, false accusation, conspiracy, and defamation

a) Forgiveness: And Jesus said, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."* (Luke 23:34)

b) Respond in grace: *And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him (Luke 22:50-51).*

c) Be silent (when appropriate): *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth (Isaiah 53:7).*

d) No attack, no defence: *Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed (Matthew 27:13-14).*

e) Undiminished love: *He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly (1 Peter 2:22-23).*

## Questions for Discussion

1. What are the seven things that the Lord hates?

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2. Which of the “Practical Examples” in this study do you most identify with and how does it manifest in your life?

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3. When dealing with mutinies, false accusations, and defamation, which biblical response do you find the hardest and why?

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4. Read Matthew 18:15 and Matthew 5:24. What do these verses teach about dealing with hurts and offences?

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5. What does Ephesians 4:29, Matthew 12:36, Proverbs 16:24, and Psalm 141:3 teach us in relationship to speech that is honourable?

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6. How will the biblical teaching of God’s hatred of *“a false witness that breathes out lies”* impact your life this week?

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## Homework

- Read Proverbs 7 at least 5 times this week.
- Memorise Ephesians 4:29



## LESSON OUTLINE:

PRAY  
READ  
ENGAGE  
ANSWER  
CONNECT  
HOMEWORK

## READING:

PROVERBS 6:16-19

## STUDY TEXT:

PROVERBS 6:19

## THEME:

WHAT GOD HATES

## STUDY METHOD:

Attributes of God  
Promises of God  
Principles for Life  
Lessons to Learn  
Examples to Follow

## FURTHER STUDY:

ROMANS 16:17-18  
TITUS 3:9-11

## MEMORY VERSE:

TITUS 3:2

## PRAYER & PRAISE:

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## SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

### Read Proverbs 6:16-19

Our last study focused on the sixth detestable sin of Proverbs 6:16-19, namely, “a false witness who breathes out lies.” In this lesson, we arrive at the final sin that God hates.

### Detestable Sin #7: One who Sows Discord among Brothers (6:19)

The final sin in this catalogue of vices speaks of one who actively sows division and strife in the place where trust, love and unity exist.

The remarkable and striking thing here is that God ranks the one who causes quarrels and strife among brethren with murderers, liars and perjurers! This again gives us an indication of how God views discord, and the emphasis He places on unity.

This final phrase in verse 19 is uncomplicated. It contains no unusual Hebrew meanings and has not been the subject of controversy among commentators and Bible students. It is extremely simple and straightforward.

To “sow discord” is to promote disunity, to excite conflict, to stir up trouble, and to breed contention.

This is achieved by tale-bearing, ill-natured stories, gossip and slander, and conversation laced with intentional controversy.

The word “discord” is a shortened form of discordant, which finds its origin in music. Musical dissonance is that which is disagreeable to the ear.

In music, a “chord” is any harmonic set of pitches consisting of multiple notes played simultaneously. For a chord to function melodically, it must follow a set of rules. When these rules are not applied, the sound is discordant and forms a musical conflict.

In simple terms, when an individual intentionally inserts a conflicting “note” into a relationship, he has effectively destroyed the unity in God’s piece of music. Only God is permitted to write the notes, and to bring conflict to His composition is considered a serious sin!

### The Three Realms of Brotherhood

When the Bible here refers to “brothers” it includes a variety of relationships:

1. Natural relations - familial.
2. Civil society - mankind.
3. Religious community - church.

In the first instance, God despises any dissonance caused between blood-relations. To actively sow discord among family members is considered a grave sin.

Example: This was the sin of Rebekah when she pitted Jacob against Esau in a competition to win the favour and birthright of Isaac (Genesis 27:1-38). Those brothers were at enmity for many years until reconciliation could be achieved.

Secondly, civil society, which in broad terms refers to mankind as the widest form of brotherhood, should not be the subject of conflict and disagreement. God despises those who purposefully sow seeds of trouble and contention in this sphere of existence.

Examples: This may include establishing racial hierarchy, determining human worth on the basis of social status, or sowing division through political argumentation, exercising a critical spirit, and stubbornly refusing non-moral advancement.

On a grand scale, Adolf Hitler was guilty of elevating the Aryan Race and despising Jews and non-Caucasian people groups. This is, of course, an extreme example, but it demonstrates that a wicked and divisive idea can bring about genocide, and produce a holocaust.

Lastly, we must consider the spiritual form of brotherhood: the church. The Bible is replete with teaching about the importance of unity, concord, and fellowship.

Psalm 133 says, *“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.”* These are pictures and metaphors of great joy, intimacy, and blessing.

One commentator wrote: *“If the heavenly dew descends on brethren that dwell together in unity, a withering blast will fall on those who cause divisions for their own selfish ends.”*

A heaven-sent blessing is pronounced by Jesus upon those who are peacemakers, so the wrath of God assails the man who sows discord among His church.

Paul wrote: *“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”* (Romans 16:17-18). For further reading and discussion: Titus 3:9-11; Matthew 18:15-20.

It is the responsibility of every Christian to be *“eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”* (Ephesians 4:3).

## Application

1. Sowing discord among brothers is active, intentional, and rooted in pride.
2. Sowing discord among brothers is the outworking of a heart that enjoys controversy.
3. It is not sowing discord among brothers when you uphold a biblically revealed truth with a pure heart.
4. Gospel truth *will* cause division in all three categories of brotherhood:
  - A. Natural Relations - Matthew 10:34-39 (Jesus said he had come to divide families);
  - B. Civil Society - Matthew 14:1-12 (John the Baptist confronts Herod on his adulterous relationship);
  - C. Church - 1 Corinthians 11:19 (Paul tells the church that divisions exist so that the genuine may be recognised).

## Final Study Application

Firstly, congratulations on completing this Bible study. Hopefully it has been helpful to you, and has revealed in deeper measures, the character of God, His hatred of sin, and the importance of pursuing holiness and righteousness as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Remember to ask yourself: do I hate what God hates and love what He loves? This is the “Litmus test” of our consecration. The Apostle John wrote: *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* (1 John 2:15). Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers are all fruits of darkness, and must be rejected by all who name the name of Jesus. Let us, therefore, walk in the way wisdom and holiness.

## Questions for Discussion

1. What are the seven things that the Lord hates?

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2. According to Proverbs 13:10, Galatians 5:19-21, and 1 Corinthians 3:3, what is the source(s) of discord, division, and contention? How does it manifest itself?

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3. What are the biblical steps provided in Matthew 18:15-20 for dealing with offences in the church?

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4. Read Titus 3:9-11. What does the Bible say about how to deal with those who stir up division in the church?

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5. According to Titus 3:2, and in contrast to those who sow discord, how should the believer behave?

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6. How will the biblical teaching of God's hatred of "*one who sows discord among brothers*" impact your life this week?

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## Homework

- Read Proverbs 8 at least 5 times this week.
- Memorise Titus 3:2