

# Hating What God Hates by Loving What God Loves

## Proverbs 6:16-18

**June 13, 2021**  
**Steve DeWitt**

Last week, our Lead Elders created a special fund within the Benevolent Ministry, specifically for members of our church who have children in the medical category, “terminal.” This fund provides resources for the family to use as they deem best for their circumstances—perhaps a family experience similar to *Make a Wish* foundation, or medical bills, or whatever would comfort and bless them. We named it The Joseph Kloosterman Fund (or The Joseph Fund for short). We would like to announce today that this fund has already raised \$52,544.89. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Last week we also started our series, *Bottom Lines of the Bible*. I said we could have called it *The Bible for Dummies* as all the texts are simple, basic summary statements of Scripture. Last week we looked at Micah 6:8 (ESV), “*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*” When in doubt, emphasize those three things and make sure to do them with faith in Jesus. Without faith, it’s impossible to please God. With faith, Micah 6:8 pleases him.

God’s opinion remains our focus this week as we are in Proverbs. I love Proverbs. My reading Bible has three bookmarks. One is currently in 1 Kings, one is in Psalms, and one is in Proverbs. I read chapters in Proverbs every week, ideally every day. Why? Proverbs is practical wisdom for life. Who doesn’t need that? They were likely written by King Solomon and a few others. They are brief statements of truth applicable to many categories of life and provide wonderful guidance for successful living, especially successful spiritual living.

Proverbs chapter 6 is a practical chapter. Don’t co-sign loans. Don’t be a sluggard; work like an ant. Save. Prepare. Then in verses 12-16, Solomon warns about a divisive-type person: their nonverbal body language in verses 12-15 and how God ranks divisiveness in the sins he hates in verses 16-19. Let’s start in v. 12:

*“A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger, with perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord; therefore calamity will come upon him suddenly; in a moment he will be broken beyond healing”* (Proverbs 6:12–15).

There is a lot here not to like about this individual. We know from verses 16-19 that Solomon’s main criticism is his divisiveness. God hates that. But notice the collage of character faults which find expression in divisiveness. Worthless and wicked, this person’s speech is crooked as is all his body language. His winks indicate ulterior motives. His pointing finger comes from an evil heart. His shuffling feet indicate a person not to be trusted. This person is up to no good. His nonverbals scream it.

As a boy, my brother Scott was a terrible liar. Now he’s a pastor so don’t lie kids, God might call you to the ministry. When my brother lied to my parents, he would always furrow his eyebrows. He didn’t realize he did it but whenever he did it, we knew not to believe him. His nonverbals indicated his deceit. That’s the sense here. This person appears suspicious. TSA would definitely do a careful search of his luggage. Wand him. Proverbs is urging us to spiritually wand him and assume his motives are not pure. He may be an attractive person

or personality. Compelling. But his true motive is evident when the effect is seen. The words. The slander. His winks and insinuations leave family members, church members, and friends divided against each other. Look out for such a person. Let's look in the mirror today more than we think of who in our church or family resembles this.

Our temptation with these kinds of sins is to normalize and minimize them and not see them as such serious sins when compared to things we know God hates—like in The Ten Commandments—murder and adultery and coveting. How bad is a little salacious whispering? That is both the question to be answered and the powerful point of this famous list of the seven things God hates. Listen to this:

*"There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and 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"* (Proverbs 6:16–19).

There is a Hebrew grammatical device Solomon uses here, both at the beginning and the end. *"There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him."* This is to indicate that the list isn't exhaustive. We could easily add to this list other things the Bible says God hates: idolatry and the Packers. But this list has a specific purpose, and while the other six are really bad, note what is number seven: *"One who sows discord among brothers."* These are not listed in ascending or descending order of evil. Rather, the list's purpose is to show things God clearly hates and then, shocker, number seven, sowing discord among the brothers. It is a kind of guilt by association. Gossipy, whispery, slanderous discord is right up there with murder? God hates dissension with the same animus as murder.

### **I Thought God was a God of Love?**

Let's deal with the hard fact that God hates anyone or anything at all. There is a misunderstood truth that says God is pure love. There is no hate in him. He cannot hate for he is all love. The truth in there is that God is love (1 John 4:8). Note, not love is God. That's idolatry. God is love. Pure love. Full of love. A quality of love that astonishes us, *nothing can separate us from his love* (Romans 8:39). There is no love on earth close to the depth, breadth, and steadfastness of God's love.

However, to say God is only love is reductionistic. In fact, it is his love that requires hate and jealousy. The Bible says God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). Yet for him hatred and jealousy are not sins, they are morally required of God. Should God love blasphemy of his name? Should he love Satan like he loves Jesus? Should God love sin? In each case, we say, *no*...but then we are in a tough spot if we see love as his singular defining attribute.

Does a mother love her son? Yes. Does she love him burning the garage down? *That's so cute!* I mention that as my dad did just that playing with matches when he was a boy. That was not a great day for grandma. A mom is filled with love but she doesn't love the nighttime intruder or the poisonous snake near her child. Her love requires her to hate those realities.

God's love and God's hate are like that. God's love is first and foremost ethically required to be for his own glory as the only worthy object of his ultimate affection. Because God loves his glory, he must hate anything that falls short of that glory (Romans 3:23). Sin and sinners fall short. Satan and demons fall short. Because he cannot love what is impure or

blasphemous to his glory, he is ethically bound to withhold all love for these things. He must hate.

By the way, we are told to do the same. "*Hate what is evil; cling to what is good*" (Romans 12:9 NIV). The bottom line in this passage is that **we hate what God hates by loving what God loves.**

### **What Does God Hate?**

The first five are all illustrated by parts of the human body. They loosely go from head to toe.

#### **Haughty eyes**

We know this look. It's the look the teenager driving his dad's midlife crisis sports car gives when he is next to you at the red light. Particularly if you are driving the family minivan. The 2011 Grey Odyssey minivan. With 140,000 miles. With sticky back seats and a portable child potty. Don't ask me how I know that. Haughty eyes are exalted eyes that look down on others. It is what the eyes do when the heart is self-absorbed.

Contrast this with the foundational verse for all of Proverbs, "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight*" (Proverbs 9:10 ESV). Fearing God is not terror but reverencing, treasuring, worshiping God above all other things. The effect is not haughty eyes but humble eyes. "*Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished*" (Proverbs 16:5).

#### **A lying tongue**

##### **A false witness who breathes out lies**

"*Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight*" (Proverbs 12:22). There is no mistaking lying and intentional deception are grave sins in God's eyes. "*You shall not bear false witness*" (Exodus 20:16) is the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment. God hates lying because he is 100% truth.

"*...in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began...*" (Titus 1:2) God doesn't lie. Never has. Never will. He is truth. A tongue that deceives is Satanic. Satan is called the father of lies. Everything he says is misleading, deceptive. Think of how he twisted God's words to deceive Adam and Eve. That is his nature. He is a liar. He is the opposite of the beautiful truthfulness of God. God hates a lying tongue.

#### **Hands that shed innocent blood**

Human life is made in the image of God. It has inherent and derived worth from our Creator. In the Old Testament ethical code is capital punishment for purposely taking human life. The 6<sup>th</sup> commandment is "*You shall not murder*" (Exodus 20:13). It is a prohibition against murder, not ethical killing, as in applying capital punishment to the murderer. This is not a sin, even though it takes a human life.

The focus here is on the willful, intentional taking of human life. Why does God hate it? Because violence is the opposite of love. Jesus takes it to the heart level in the Sermon on the Mount: *if you are angry with your brother in your heart, your attitude is murderous.* God is love and God is life and he is the giver of human life. He loves life, not murder.

## **A heart that devises wicked plans**

### **Feet that run to evil**

Both of these get at a fascination and passion for sin. In the first chapter of Proverbs, Solomon warns his sons about falling in with people described as hellions whose only delight is in what displeases God. "...for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood" (Proverbs 1:16). Don't fall in with them. Don't run with them. Middle school boys, are you listening?

- *"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"* (Genesis 6:5).
- The feet go where the heart schemes and God hates the whole thing. His will for us is that which is good, pleasing, and perfect (Romans 12:2).

In contrast is the example William Wilberforce whose gospelized heart imagined how to bless people. Besides being the person most responsible for ending slavery in the Western world, his heart schemed ministries and charities to do good and bless. He started many, many of these and personally supported them. He literally changed England and changed the world. God loves hearts that scheme good and lives that run in that direction of purity.

<b><u>What God Hates</u></b>	<b><u>Who God Is</u></b>	<b><u>What He Loves</u></b>
Haughty Eyes	Most High	Humility
Lying Tongue	Truth	Truth speaking
Hands Shedding Blood	Life	Value human Life
Feet quick to evil	Good	Moral and ethical purity
False Witness	Truth	Truth speaking
Divisive Person	Triunity	Love and unity

If we look at the six sins God hates, each one is directly contrary to the character of God. This brings us to the seventh thing God hates:

### **One who sows discord among brothers**

**Divisive Person**

**Triunity**

**Love and unity**

Here is how The Message version begins this passage, *"Here are six things God hates, and one more that he loathes with a passion"* (Proverbs 6:19 MSG). Which one does he especially loathe? One who sows discord.

This is an agricultural example. *Sowing* is planting seeds. Here is where sowing illustrates a good point with disunity. When you drive by a field of corn, do you know who planted the seeds? No. All you see is the effect.

Disunity is like that. You may not personally see the shifting feet or hear the malcontent speak, but the effect is obvious. Mysteriously it would seem, squabbles and quarrels erupt. People that used to like each other no longer trust each other. Where there had been oneness and unity, now people are looking at each other with a jaundiced eye. One of my favorite and nearly inspired quotes that I say around the office is, ***all is yellow to the jaundiced eye***. Once people get a jaundiced eye toward someone, now everything about them is yellow. Things that before were tolerated are now intolerable. People who were trustworthy, are now suspect. What was viewed positively, is now viewed negatively. All because somebody with shifting feet and an evil heart whispered something.

- *"A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends"* (Proverbs 16:28 ESV).
- *"Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass"* (Proverbs 16:30).
- *"The scoundrel is someone who works to undermine social and personal relationships for his own benefit"* (Garret).<sup>1</sup>
- *"The chief of all that God hates is he who takes a fiendish delight in setting at variance men who stand nearly related"* (Keil and Delitzsch).<sup>2</sup>

That is the surprising discovery for me this week studying it. I thought this would be a summary of seven things God hates. In reality, it's six things we already know God hates and one thing God really, really hates.

Why? Why does God hate divisive people so much? Because he is a Tri-unity. Remember what Jesus prayed in his high priestly prayer in John 17, *"And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one"* (John 17:11). Jesus longs for unity in the church, a oneness that reflects the oneness in the Trinity. The glue for this is love. Love and unity are the opposite of hatred.

Here is a portion of Psalm 133, *"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!"* (Psalm 133:1-2) Oil is a sign of blessing. How good it is when we love unity so much that we hate discord and those who sow those seeds.

---

<sup>1</sup> Duane A. Garrett, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture* (Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 1993) 97.

<sup>2</sup> Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Vol. 6* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, 1966) 149.

I think all agree with this in principle, but how many of us love unity enough to shut down the person who says, "Did you hear?" What? Now their feet begin to shift. Their finger begins to point. This could be a friend; it likely is. It's not a stranger. Likely a family member.

*"But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned"* (Titus 3:9–11).

*So, pastor Steve, have you seen people intentionally scheming, trying to split people or maybe even our church? Yes. Sadly, many times. This isn't a theoretical message. So you're saying I need to hate more? Not really, at least not primarily. Here is the key with divisiveness and the other six deadly sins...*

### **We Hate What God Hates by Loving What He Loves**

God loves the brethren. Jesus died for every true Christian in the church. God loves unity. Jesus prayed and continues to pray to the Father for it. We have to love what God loves!

The application is far easier to agree with than to obey. But that's where the word *hate* is so helpful. God hates sowing seeds of discontent, especially when it is petty and simply interpersonal. Most of this isn't doctrine. We aren't talking the virgin birth here.

Love what God loves, love who God loves, love how God loves, and then hate wherever needless and sinful whispers damage and destroy the family or church that God loves. Let's love what he loves so much that we hate what he hates. All six but especially number seven.

I finish with the reminder that God loves nothing more than his Son Jesus and sinners who have spread discord, run to evil, lied, cheated, hated, and murdered, who repent and believe and turn from a life of hating the wrong things to loving and hating the right ones, especially loving God's beloved son Jesus our Savior.

Scripture quotations are taken from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Permanent Text Edition® (2016)*. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Additional Scripture quotations taken from *Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®* Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Additional Scripture quotations taken from *The Message*, Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson.

© 2021 by Steve DeWitt. You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that: (1) you credit the author, (2) any modifications are clearly marked, (3) you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, (4) you include Bethel's website address ([www.bethelweb.org](http://www.bethelweb.org)) on the copied resource.