

# God Is Hate

"There are six things which the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him."  
(Proverbs 6:16)

I know. I don't like the title of this either. We like to focus on 1 John 4:8 which says "God is love." But Solomon does something in Proverbs 6 that, on the surface, is out of character for God. He lists seven things that "God hates." Actually, he goes on to say that these seven are "abominations" to God. That means he really hates these.

As children of God, we need to be like our heavenly Father. This includes imitating Him and adopting His perspective. If God hates something, so should we. Paul would say that we should "abhor what is evil" (Romans 12:9). Why should we abhor (hate) what is evil? Because God does!

So what does Solomon say God hates? Note his list:

**God hates haughty eyes.** There are those who are full of pride and arrogance. They see themselves as better than others, and you can see it in their eyes. God, who is truly all powerful and knowing sees the sheer foolishness of human pride. We need to do what Peter exhorted: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time" (1 Peter 5:6).

**God hates a lying tongue.** Why do people lie in the first place? Typically it is to hide the truth, or it is designed to make one look better than he really is. God hates that. We need to honestly admit who we are, and honestly speak to others. Societies are built upon honesty. Relationships thrive when built upon honesty. When trust is gone, a stable relationship is gone as well. Paul says simply, "Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices" (Colossians 3:9). He also said "Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth, each one of you, with his neighbor" (Ephesians 4:25).

**God hates hands that shed innocent blood.** Typically this terminology means to kill someone (cf. Proverbs 1:11, 16). When Noah got off the ark, God decreed "whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed" (Genesis 9:6). While we might not ever take a life, we can still hurt others through words and actions. They are "innocent," but we victimize them nevertheless. We must exercise caution in dealing with others, and "be kind to one another" (Ephesians 4:31).

**God hates a heart that devises wicked plans.** Some sins are thought out and calculated. The person has determined to do evil; when to do it and how to do it. What happened to the person's conscience? Where is the thought "this is wrong, I shouldn't do this"? Such was the case with Judas in his betrayal of Jesus. He planned it all out (Matthew 26:14-16).

**God hates feet that run rapidly to evil.** Here the person is not creating the evil, but is willing to join in. This reminds me of those who join in with others who are looting innocent businesses in the name of "justice." Evil is evil, no matter what name mankind might give it (cf. Isaiah 5:20).

**God hates a false witness who utters lies.** Unlike the earlier point about the "lying tongue," here the person's lies are specifically about another. The words spoken are designed to misrepresent another or even bring harm. Typically this is what "malicious gossip" is (cf. Romans 1:29; 2 Corinthians 12:20). Are we always accurately representing others?

**God hates one who spreads strife among brothers.** Notice that they are already "brothers." They're in the same family, and they love each other. Yet this person does things to disrupt a unity that existed! Thanks to this person, where there was no "strife," now there is. We are to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9), not peace destroyers.

Maybe it's not correct to say that "God is hate" but that "God hates." And, what God hates, we should hate.