

## An Appeal From God's Heart Proverbs 6:16-19

Please take your Bible this morning and turn with me once again to the book of Proverbs as we focus on our study of ancient wisdom for modern times. We will be looking at **Proverbs 6:16-19**. Last week we considered the safety of a strong tower that we have in the name of the Lord. In essence we considered that in Him we have hope no matter what storms of life may buffet us, He is a strong tower, a solid rock - a high tower where the righteous run and are safe. He invites us to come to Him. As we looked at some of the names of God which give us hope in Him as that tower, today we want to consider the heart of God as it is revealed for us in this Proverb.

Paul concludes his second letter to the Corinthians by noting that the God of love and peace will be with them **(13:11)**.

Then in **Ephesians 2:4-5** he makes this proclamation: **"But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions."** The essence of this verse is also duly noted in his letter to the **Romans (5:8)** where he speaks of God's love sending His Son.

Paul also emphasizes to Timothy that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of love **(II Timothy 1:7)**. John joins his contemporary by writing that He has given us His love to share with others and that by His Word the love of God is perfected in us **(I John 2:5)**. He underscores the message of the gospel and all of Scripture by exclaiming that **"GOD IS LOVE" (I John 4:8, 16)** and if we love God as we say we do, then we should love one another, just as God loves us **(I John 4:11-12)**. Truly if God's love is in us, then we will keep His commandments **(I John 5:3)** and they are not a burden because we are motivated by the love He has given us for Him.

So we have this picture of a loving God. However our passage casts Him in another light that we also need to understand and emulate.

God not only loves, but He also hates. Our passage notes a number of the things that God hates.

This morning consider two points with me.

**Sin assessed**

**Sin addressed**

### I. SIN ASSESSED – v. 16

To assess something is to evaluate it and then put a value on it. Those who own a home understand this when someone makes an assessment on the value of your home for the purpose of establishing your property tax.

This passage reveals to us that God has taken a look at sin and in His assessment has placed a value on it. It shows us His attitude about sin.

#### A. His Attitude About Sin

This shows us not only what God hates, but reveals a moral standard for us to follow, a standard that He has set up.

The word hate seems like a particularly strong word. *I tell Robyn that I hate Brussel Sprouts. I don't like the smell. I don't like the texture. I don't like the taste. Nothing you could do to Brussel Sprouts to doctor it up would cause me to change my mind.*

*A child may get into a tiff on the playground over who got to the swings first, especially if one child pushed the other in order to get there first. That child may get up and tell the other that he hates him.*

*Maybe there was a time when in anger a teen son or daughter didn't like the curfew or restrictions placed on them and so they stormed out of the room telling you that they hated you.*

We might say we hate being late.

These may all be matters of opinion or taste, some probably not the correct response, but none the less, they have been voiced.

The dictionary defines hate as having a strong dislike or ill will for some one or something; to loathe; to despise; to dislike or wish to avoid or shrink away from. It is a deep and emotional extreme dislike directed against a certain object or class of objects. But even in that definition it does not adequately convey the utter abhorrence God has for sin. To abhor something implies a feeling of great repugnance, disgust, or revulsion.

Here's the picture I want you to understand about how much God hates sin. Think about something that really makes you nauseous, some smell that is so repulsive that you automatically become sick to your stomach. **What might some of those things be?**

It might be a full diaper.

Cleaning up after someone else has thrown up.

It might be your neighbor's compost pile.

It might be the nearby dump on a particularly humid day.

It might be liver and onions cooking.

**Over time though, what happens?** We begin to tolerate the smell. It's not as bad as it was. Yeah, it still smells bad, but you've gotten used to it. Years ago after helping a friend on his farm move pigs. After a while it didn't bother me. I was used to it.

God never gets used to sin and He doesn't want us to either. He won't ever tolerate it. He won't ever change His mind about it. **Verse 16** says He hates it, He detests it. It is odious to Him.

The idea Solomon is trying to convey to his son is that the same hatred God has for sin is the same hatred we need to have toward sin as well.

Look for a moment at Proverbs **8:13**.

**What does it say?**

**"To fear the Lord is to hate evil."**

When we see it or when we do it we should hate it. We cannot say we fear God if we don't hate evil.

You might ask if such an attitude is possible.

**Job 1:1**

**Job 28:28** tells us to **"depart from evil."**

**II Timothy 2:22** says we are to flee youthful lusts.

**I Peter 2:11** exhorts us to abstain from sin that wars against the soul.

**Would you agree with me that it's possible to stay away from something but still have a hankering for it, we can still desire it?** If you have ever been on a diet, you know what I mean. Stay away from that cookie. Don't take that second helping of mashed potatoes and gravy. Avoid buffet restaurants. We can depart from eating foods on a diet but still desire it in our heart.

What Solomon is saying in the Old Testament and echoed in the New is that if we fear God, if we love God, we will hate sin, because that is what God hates. We can depart from evil but still desire it in our heart. **One author suggests that hatred for evil can come only from divine wisdom. In contrast, he goes on to say, human wisdom urges tolerance of evil and rationalization. How many would agree with that? Isn't there a general tolerance or acceptance of sin today? As a culture haven't we come to accept a lot of things that Scripture deems as sin?** And it's becoming more prevalent even among Christians.

**What are some things that are now considered okay in our culture that the standard of the Bible clearly states is wrong?**

**What is God's attitude toward them?**

He has drawn a line in the sand of morality.

Peter clearly delineates the standard God has for us.

**“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’” (I Peter 1:14-16)**

That seems pretty clear doesn't it? There isn't any wiggle room. It doesn't say “be sort of holy” or “I know that's just the way you” or “that's okay.” His standard for us is to be like Him – holy. We can take that to mean from our verse that we are to hate sin. **I have a ways to go, how about you?**

Solomon goes so far as to say that the wise person is the one who avoids and hates sin, but the fool accepts it and practices it.

**If we fear God what should our attitude be toward them? So why do we tolerate it?**

It's fun. Sin is fun for a season.  
It's inconvenient to give up. I'll have to change.  
I'll have to give up friends and entertainment.  
It seems the right thing to do. But Scripture says its end is death.  
Everyone is doing it.  
It's not hurting anyone. It's harmless.  
No one will know.  
I'm addicted to it.  
The standards of the Bible are outdated. We need to get with the times.

God's standard is still the standard. Amen?  
God's Word is clear - we are to hate sin because God hates it.

**Psalm 97:10**

**Psalm 119:104-105** – this suggests that if we follow the path of morality outlined for us in Scripture then we will hate taking the wrong path.

There was a movie I considered taking David to see. It looked cute in the previews, one that I thought he might enjoy. It had adventure and action. So I went to a website that evaluates movies to see what they had to say about it. I was a stunned. Included

in this movie that was advertised as family friendly for all ages were some objectionable things. As I read the review the author had the opportunity to interview the director. When he was questioned about some of the elements in the movie that seemed inappropriate for a young audience, the director matter of factly commented that it has become the new normal for children's movies.

God has made an assessment of sin and the conclusion is that He hates. If we fear Him, if we hold Him in reverence and if we love Him, we too will hate sin as He does. The Bible is our Quality Assurance manual. It has set the standard and the standard deviation is 0 tolerance. When I worked in manufacturing where we assembled cardiovascular surgical equipment, parts were glued together. When the parts were inspected, there could be small bubbles in the glued area, but not to exceed a certain size. The doctor didn't want the product falling apart in the surgical suite when he was doing open heart surgery.

God has no tolerance for sin. As a matter of fact, Scripture reveals to us that He hates sin so much that He had to bring judgment on it. Because of sin, He made an arrangement for it.

## **B. His Arrangement for Sin**

God has to punish sin because it falls far short of His standard. He hates sin so much He had to send His Son to die on the cross 2,000 years ago. It cannot go unpunished.

We read in verses like **Isaiah 53:6** and **Romans 3:23** that we are all sinners. We all have sin. But while God hates sin, the Bible is clear to tell us that He loves the sinner, but He loves the sinner too much to leave him in his sin condition. While He hates the sin, He loved us so much He sent His only Son to die for us so even when we were still in that sinful condition.

God is able to separate His hatred for sin and His love for the sinner and provide a remedy for the sin.

Christ's death on the cross satisfied the just demands of a holy God so that all those who believe by faith in what Christ did on the cross **"will not perish but have everlasting life."** Sadly many will not accept this gift and will be forever cut off from the presence of God because they refused it.

God loves the sinner so much He made arrangement for the sin He hates by sending His Son to take our place for the punishment we deserve.

God made an assessment of sin. He hates it with a passion. His desire is that we also hate sin with the same passion and by His grace to also love those who have yet to respond to his saving grace. In choosing to follow Him, we must also have the same attitude.

If we find ourselves having a tolerance for sin and not hating it as God does, then we need to consider the advice of Paul who, in writing to Timothy, had this to say. **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."**

When we get off track, God's Word is able to steer us back on course so that godly character can be produced in our life. As I suggested last week, if you don't know the names of God, you don't know the kind of tower He provides for safety. This week I would add that if we don't know His Word, we won't know how He wants us to live or what we should avoid.

If I want to bake a cake and I've not done it before, I wouldn't think of winging it. I might put in tabasco sauce when it calls for milk or horse radish if it calls for pudding. I need to read the recipe and follow it closely. After baking for a long time, I might be able to bake a cake from memory. So it is with God's Word. Read it as you would a cook

book following its recipe step by step.

Our passage in Proverbs reveals 7 things that the Lord hates. Sin has been assessed, sin is now addressed.

## II. SIN ADDRESSED – v. 17-19

Let me say first of all that this is not intended to be an all-inclusive number, that these are the only sins God hates. This is just a representative list. That there are seven listed shows the completeness for which God hates sin. He hates it thoroughly. These seven sins also reveal the total depravity of man's heart. Man's heart is set on doing wickedly continually.

### A. God Hates Haughty Eyes

This is a person with a proud look. Pride stands in contrast to wisdom. Wisdom is willing to accept rebuke. Wisdom is willing to accept criticism as a means to help him grow. Wisdom is willing to learn from others. Wisdom is willing to change. Pride on the other hand won't accept any kind of criticism. Pride won't listen to others, he wants to do things his own way. He is not willing to change.

Pride regards self as the most important person around. He is arrogant and boastful. He has what we call an "I" problem – always speaking about himself, always wanting to be noticed and lauded. He exalts himself.

**Proverbs 18:12** states that the reason for man's downfall is his pride, his arrogance. On the other hand, the person who is humble will be exalted.

If we can take God's hatred for the sin of pride a step further, when we consider the words of I Peter 5:6, God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. The verse further suggests that when we humble ourselves God will exalt us.

In pride, Haman sought to exalt himself before the king. In humility Mordecai sought to remain

humble. In the end it was Haman whom God resisted and brought low and Mordecai He exalted.

In pride the rulers of Persia sought to exalt themselves by trying to bring a fellow ruler down, while Daniel sought to be humble. In the end it was the rulers who were resisted by God while Daniel was exalted.

One author has suggested that humility is finding one's worth so securely in God's unearned favor that one is not very concerned about self-esteem at all. A humble person doesn't put himself down, avoid compliments or play the martyr. His status doesn't matter too much to him because his value in God's eyes is a settled issue.

Consider these two contrasting verses and then decide which you would rather follow.

**Proverbs 16:18 – “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”**

**Proverbs 22:4 – “Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.”**

In pride, Herod accepted the applause of man rather than giving glory to God and he lost his life.

In pride, Naaman at first refused to follow the instructions of the prophet Elisha in order to be healed of his leprosy.

In pride, Nebuchadnezzar refused to acknowledge that his kingdom was his by God's favor and he spent 7 years living like an animal.

**Job 41:34 “He looks down on all that are haughty; He is king over all that are proud.”**

The proud ignore the fact that while they think they are the ones in control, there is One who is in control of them.

**Psalms 10:2-5 “In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises. He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord. In his pride the wicked does not seek him;**

**in all his thoughts there is no room for God. His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and Your laws are far from Him.”** Such is the way of the proud. Pride is the scornful look of contempt on other people. Pride denies the Lord's authority and disregards human rights. His rights always come 1<sup>st</sup>. **William Barclay wrote that pride is the ground from which all the other sins come.”** It is the original sin. Mark God's Word well, He will deal with the proud, because it is a sin He hates.

## **B. God Hates a Lying Tongue**

To lie is to intentionally withhold something which one knows is not the whole truth to be the whole truth. **How many have found that lies are easy to tell, but hard to live?**

One author has suggested that lying is one of the most common wrong acts we carry out. Did you know that according to surveys, most people condemn lying except when there is a good reason for it, like if it will incriminate them or get a friend in trouble.

Jesus went so far as to emphatically state that when we lie we are acting like Satan, the father of lies. He is the source of all religious, philosophical, scientific, social, economic and political error.

If we say we love God, then we should act in the same way as the One who is the Truth.

When the phone rings at home and someone else answers it and the caller is asking for you. If you tell the person who answered the phone that you're not home, you're lying.

God hates a lying tongue.

## **C. God Hates Hands That Shed Innocent Blood**

This person is willing to take a life that is precious to God. I don't think this is talking about lives that are taken during combat. This is one person taking the life of another person in a premeditated act.



A couple of months ago I read the very tragic story of a 17 year old girl who was convicted of murder. The case actually happened when she was 13 or 14. The reason she gave in court as to the motive for killing a girl much younger was because she wanted to feel what it was like to take someone's life. It wasn't over jealousy for some boy or because the other girl had more Barbie dolls. She just wanted to feel what it was like to have someone's life slip away in her hands.

Or how about this, did you know that in America last year, just America, over 1,200,000 babies were aborted. As a matter of fact, that while abortionists are not required by law to provide the number of abortions they perform, it's estimated that number is about the same for the past several years. In 1973, the first year of legalization, there were almost 800,000. The first 3 years were the only years since 1973 that abortions were below 1,200,000, according to the Allan Guttmacher Institute.

Would it surprise you that the Catholic Hospital where my brother and I were born recommended termination of the pregnancy because Mom was so sick? I'm glad she didn't listen.

Maybe you know someone who has had an abortion or someone who has considered one.

74% say having a baby would interfere with work, school, or other responsibilities.

73% say they cannot afford to have a child.

48% say they do not want to be a single parent, or have relationship problems with husband or partner.

Do we hate abortion as much as God? Consider getting involved with the crisis pregnancy center or the Livingston County Right to Life.

We don't have time to talk about euthanasia or mercy killing led by the likes of Dr. Jack Kavorkian or the States in our union that support it.

The shedding of innocent blood is often the result of pride, malice, spite, envy, greed. It all begins in the heart.

God hates hands that shed innocent blood.

### D. God Hates a Heart That Devises Wicked Schemes

Jesus said in **Matthew 15:19** that it was **"out of the heart that evil thoughts come."**

Isaiah speaks of those whose thoughts are evil **(59:7)**

**Romans 1:18-21, 24**

Adam lived 930 years, long enough to see the depravity of man become deeply rooted in the heart of humanity.

**Genesis 6:5** **"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time."**

Speaking on behalf of the Lord, **Zechariah 8:17** states that God hates those that plot evil whose heart is rebellious toward Him.

### E. God Hates Feet That Are Quick to Rush Into Evil

J. Vernon McGee wrote that **"the heart blazes the trail for the feet."**

What the heart plans the feet will carry out. As the book of Judges attests, everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

**Proverbs 1:10-16** – the crux of which is that the feet of the foolish, the feet of the wicked rush to do sin without any thought of the consequences or the ramifications. It concludes that those who rush into sin will get caught in their own schemes.

### F. God Hates a False Witness Who Pours Out Lies

Recently Roger Clemons was on trial again for lying about using steroids while pitching. Another pitcher was testifying for the prosecution and retracted a statement he made earlier. A false witness is lying. His was supposed to have been the

most compelling witness for the prosecution and he balked on the witness stand.

The ninth commandment given to Moses by God was not to bear false witness against a neighbor. It's really about lying.

**Leviticus 19:11 "Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another."**

Being a false witness has everything to do with cheating someone out of something. Maybe it's all about the last commandment where we are not to covet. They have something we don't have and so we cook up some testimony so that they end up losing what they have because we don't or can't have it. A lot of damage is incurred through a false witness. **Proverbs 12:18** says that the words of a false witness pierces like a sword. **Proverbs 25:18** says it's like a club.

Consider that it was false witnesses who testified against Jesus and later Paul. God hates such a testimony. Be truthful.

### **G. God Hates a Man Who Stirs Up Dissension Among Brothers**

The word for brother can mean anything from your sibling to your countryman or anyone in between. Discord is anything that causes dissension or conflict. **Are you one to pick a fight with those in your household? Are you one to sow discord within the church or at work?**

It speaks of a lack of unity or harmony in the home. In His final discourse to the disciples before He was crucified, Jesus prayed that they might be one, that there would be unity. He prayed that for us too. It is pride that sows discord. It is humility that sows unity.

**Proverbs 10:12** makes it clear that dissension is caused by anger.

**Proverbs 15:18** notes that dissension is from an uncontrollable temper.

**Proverbs 28:25** says dissension is from greed.

Let me just remind you of some in Scripture who caused dissension. The mere mention of their names will remind you of their stories and the consequences of their actions.

Cain and Abel

Ishmael and Isaac

Esau and Jacob

The sons of Jacob and Joseph

God hates the sin of dissension.

There is in Scripture one example who illustrates each of these seven sins. (Jezebel)

1. A proud look – **I Kings 21:7**
2. A lying tongue – **I Kings 21:8**
3. Hands that shed innocent blood – **I Kings 18:4; 19:1-2**
4. A desire to devise wicked schemes – **I Kings 16:30-33**
5. Feet that are swift to evil – **I Kings 21:9-10**
6. A false witness – **I Kings 21:10, 13**
7. Sowing discord – **II Kings 9:22**

We need to keep in mind that our attitude toward sin should be the same as God's, let's learn to hate it. When we learn to fear the Lord we will learn what it is to hate evil. Maybe today your prayer would be that of David who in **Psalms 51:6** asked God to create in him a pure heart. At least ask God to search your heart for any offensive way to lead you to maturity (**Psalms 139:23-24**). If you are wrestling with any of these sins, be reminded that God is forgiving when we confess our sins.