

Proverbs
What God Hates

It's always interesting to evaluate how a culture uses certain words. In English, we can "love" pizza and "hate" broccoli and at the same time "love" our spouse and "hate" the devastating effects of cancer.

The range of meaning of words like love and hate can be really confusing. Especially in a politically correct society.

A county board in Wisconsin was attempting to make a policy to cover an upcoming march by the local Ku Klux Klan. One of the board members protested using the term "hate group," so they passed a resolution encouraging peaceful counteractions to "unhappy groups" like the Klan.

Webster defines hate as: 1. To feel hostility or animosity toward. 2. To detest.

Now normally when we think of the characteristics of God we don't think of hate, do we? We think of love, compassion, and mercy. We think of Jesus being the gentle shepherd and the Father so loving the world.

But the truth is there would be no measurement of love if there wasn't hate. God is perfect and therefore He loves with a perfect love, but He also hates with a perfect hate.

That's a little unsettling for us isn't it? It kind of makes us unsteady to talk about God hating anything. But we're going to see from the Bible today that God does hate as well as love.

Now if you Google the phrase "God hates" you'll come up with a variety of web sites: godhatesamerica, godhateschristians, godhatesfags, godhatesgod, godhatesclevlandsports, and godhatesweaponmanufacturers.

If your into Slayer they have an album, God Hates Us All.

Apparently God gets dragged into things whether He's revealed where He stands on a matter or not.

What we want to do this morning is look at a list of things from Proverbs that God specifically says are on His hate list. (I'll give you a hint, Cleveland sports isn't on there.) This isn't His unhappy list. This is His hate list.

Before we look at the specifics that Proverbs lists for us I'd like us to think about why it is that God would hate anything in the first place.

The things we're going to see on God's hate list go against His very nature. They go against the essence of who God really is. They grate across his holiness like fingernails on a chalkboard. These types of behaviors break his heart and grieve his Spirit.

Second, they're contrary to God's design and intent for us. In other words, these things bring pain and heartache into our lives and they destroy our relationships with each other.

Because God loves us He hates what causes pain and confusion in our lives.

See, God makes his list understandable to all of us so that we'll stay clear of these destructive behaviors. In fact, we'll focus on going in the opposite direction.

When we make it a practice to do what God loves it brings a kind of harmony to our lives...with God and with others and within ourselves.

We just heard an orchestra this morning. Could you imagine what it would sound like if I jumped in there and picked up Don's viola and started playing?

A viola isn't like a piano where you can at least play chopsticks without knowing much. Chopsticks may not be pretty and flowing but it isn't going to be painful to listen to. It takes years to master the piano but a beginner can still peck out a recognizable tune.

The viola's a different animal.

Now the maker of the viola knows what a beautiful sound it can make because He designed it that way. A violist knows because he's learned.

But someone like me would just screech.

God designed us to live our lives in tune with him and the Bible says He hates it when we don't because it brings a major spiritual dissonance and an off key heartache and misery into the harmony we were designed to have with him.

Not only that but it brings painful tones and disharmony into our relationships with others and in effect, our whole lives are lived out of tune.

The things that Gods hates are painful and destructive in our lives.

And just to give you an idea of how much He hates those destructive things I'd like us to start with the most vivid picture of that divine hatred.

Turn to John 19 pg 960

Read vs 1-3 14-18 28-34

Jesus, the Son of God, the one who never sinned, the righteous judge of all the earth, willingly allowed puny little human beings to nail Him to a cross.

On that cross He became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Since she's a much better word-smith than I am, let me read you Joni Eareckson Tada's description of the events of the cross. This is from her book *When God Weeps*.

"On your back with you!" One soldier raises a mallet to sink in the spike. But the soldier's heart must continue pumping as he readies the prisoner's wrist. Someone must sustain the soldier's life minute by minute, for no man has this power on his own. Who supplies breath to his lungs? Who gives energy to his cells? Who holds his molecules together? Only by the Son do "all things hold together" (Colossians 1: 17). The victim wills that the soldier live on. He grants the warrior's continued existence. The man swings.

As the man swings, the Son recalls how he and the Father first designed the medial nerve of the human forearm the sensations it would be capable of The design proves flawless the nerve performs exquisitely. "Up you go!" They lift the cross. God is on display in his underwear, and can scarcely breathe.

But these pains are a mere warm up to his other and growing dread. He begins to feel a foreign sensation. Somewhere during this day an unearthly foul odor began to waft, not around his nose, but his heart. He feels dirty Human wickedness starts to crawl upon his spotless being - the living excrement from our souls. The apple of his Father's eye turns brown with rot.

His Father! He must face his Father like this!

From heaven the Father now rouses himself like a lion disturbed, shakes his mane, and

roars against the shriveling remnant of a man hanging on a cross. Never has the Son seen the Father look at him so, never felt even the least of his hot breath.

But the roar shakes the unseen world and darkens the visible sky. The Son does not recognize these eyes.

"Son of Man! Why have you behaved so? You have cheated, lusted, stolen, gossiped, murdered, envied, hated, lied. You have cursed, robbed, overspent, overeaten, fornicating, disobeyed, embezzled, and blasphemed. Oh, the duties you have shirked, the children you have abandoned!

Who has ever so ignored the poor, so played the coward, so belittled my name? Have you ever held your razor tongue? What a self-righteous, pitiful drunk you, who molest young boys, peddle killer drugs, travel in cliques, and mock your parents. Who gave you the boldness to rig elections, foment revolutions, torture animals, and worship demons? Does the list never end!

Splitting families, raping virgins, acting smugly, playing the pimp, buying politicians, practicing extortion, filming pornography, accepting bribes. You have burned down buildings, perfected terrorist tactics, founded false religions, traded in slaves rehashing each morsel and bragging about it all. I hate, I loathe these things in you! Disgust for everything about you consumes me! Can you not feel my wrath?"

The Father watches as his heart's treasure, the mirror image of himself, sinks drowning into raw, liquid sin. Jehovah's stored rage against humankind from every century explodes in a single direction.

"Father! Father! Why have you forsaken me?!"

But heaven stops its ears. The Son stares up at the One who cannot, who will not, reach down or reply. Two eternal hearts tear their intimate friendship shaken to the depths.

The Trinity had planned it. The Son endured it. The Spirit enabled him. The Father rejected the Son whom he loved. Jesus, the God man from Nazareth, perished. The Father accepted his sacrifice for sin and was satisfied. The rescue was accomplished."

When we look at the things God says He hates this morning, I want us look at them though the filter of the cross.

By the way, what arrogance it would be on our part, if we understood the cross and then turned and said to God, "Hey, thanks for all that you did there but I'm getting to heaven on my own."

No wonder the Bible says, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved."*

Not one of us can do what Jesus did. He settled up our sin debt with the father.

If we're going to be forgiven and made a part of God's family the only response on our part can be "God, thank you for being merciful to me a sinner. God my only hope is in your Son Jesus Christ."

What is it that God hates?

Turn to Proverbs 6 pg 564

I. God Hates Pride Vs 17a

The first thing on God's hate list is "a proud look." You get the idea a person with their nose up in the air, looking down in arrogance from their self-made perch.

It is so easy for us to cop an arrogant attitude isn't it? We grip so tightly to our rights and demand our way.

I wonder how many conflicts in our relationships really come down to pride and arrogance. I wonder how many fights in marriage could be avoided if we'd stop thinking in the back of our mind, "She can't talk that way to me," or "He can't treat me like that and get away with it."

So many times that's just pride and if we weren't so caught up in ourselves we could resolve issues instead of fighting with each other.

The New Testament Book of James says: *Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?* James 4:1

He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." Therefore submit to God. James 4:6-7

God hates pride because it says, "I'm the thing that's most important in life.

The word that's translated "proud" in James 4 is the word *huperephanos* in the original.

It's a compound word made up of *hyper* which means "over" or "beyond." *Hypertension* is when your blood pressure over the recommended level."

And *phaino* "to bring to light, to cause to appear." It means "to make yourself appear above your actual importance."

Notice the cure for pride in James 4, *Submit to God*.

Proverbs 28:25 *He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.*

The opposite of pride is trust in God.

When I say, "God, creation is about You, life is about you, eternity is about You, not about me and my agenda," then the pride that God so hates isn't going to control me.

I. *God Hates Pride*

II. *God Hates Dishonesty* **Proverbs 6:17b**

Jonathan Wallace writes: "I hate being lied to. Short of violence, it is the worst thing you can do to me. The reason that I hate lies is because, like you, I wish to navigate carefully through life, and to do so I must be able to calculate my true position. When you lie to me, you know your position but you have given me false data which obscures mine."

"Lying is theft. When you tell me something which I take to be true and as a result I invest my time, or my money, or even my care, you have stolen these things from me because you obtained them with false information."

"Lying treats people as means to the end you wish to accomplish, and not as ends in themselves."

Now, those are all accurate, humanistic reasons for not lying. In fact, Wallace says "I hate being lied to not because of God, or the Ten Commandments, or any universal moral precepts." He explains why he hates to be lied to. Because it hurts him.

Of course if there is no God to set the rules and I feel that telling the truth will hurt me, I'm going to lie. I don't want to be hurt any more than Mr. Wallace does.

But, there's a much more fundamental reason not to lie.

Romans 3:4 *Let God be true but every man a liar.*

Psalm 89:14 *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne. Mercy and truth go before Your face.*

Psalm 119:160 *The entirety of Your word is truth.*

John 14:6 Jesus said, *"I am the truth."*

God hates lying because everything about Him is true. Isaiah 65:16 calls Him *the God of truth*. Daniel 4:37 He's *the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth*.

If we have trusted Jesus Christ as our sin bearer, we don't tell the truth because it suits us and lie if it doesn't. We tell the truth because the nature of the God that we worship and serve is truth.

I. *God Hates Pride*

II. *God Hates Dishonesty*

III. *God Hates Murder* **Proverbs 6:17c**

God hates murder because He is the Lord of life. Just like God's nature is truth, it's also life.

He's the source of life, Genesis 2:7 *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

God hates murder because He created life and established its sanctity.

Genesis 9:6 *"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."*

God ordained that when someone takes a life, he has to pay with his own life. Obviously he's talking about taking innocent life or He wouldn't say another human must take the murderer's life.

But notice the reason. It isn't revenge, it's because human beings are made in God's image.

To not forfeit the life of a murderer is to call into question the value of the life that was murdered.

I. *God Hates Pride*

II. *God Hates Dishonesty*

III. *God Hates Murder*

IV. *God Hates Unrighteousness* **Proverbs 6:18a**

God especially hates a heart that devises wicked plans. To plot and plan wickedness is even worse than just falling into it.

The Hebrew word translated “devises” *charash* literally means to “engrave” or “to plow.”

It involves strategy. It involves plotting.

Proverbs 10:23

When you find someone who enjoys cooking up evil schemes like other people enjoy watching baseball games you know it’s a person God calls a fool.

They may be a brilliant strategist and schemer but God still calls them a fool.

If God hates unrighteousness then He loves righteousness. Listen to the wisdom of Micah 6:8, *He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?*

A commitment to righteousness is a commitment to love what God loves, hating what God hates, valuing what God values and obeying what God says.

- I. *God Hates Pride*
- II. *God Hates Dishonesty*
- III. *God Hates Murder*
- IV. *God Hates Unrighteousness*
- V. *God Hates Life-Dominating Sin*

Proverbs 6:18b

We live in a world of all kinds of attractions and pulls toward evil.

Proverbs continually warns us about the pitfalls of evil.

Here’s the key: **Proverbs 11:5-6**

What directs our way? What delivers us? Our righteousness. What trips us up and catches us? Our wickedness.

When God says He hates feet that are swift in running to evil He means running to life-dominating sins that seem to just draw us in and we have no strength against.

We sometimes hear the word “addiction” used to describe this type of sin. It might be pornography, alcohol, drugs, homosexual behavior, what ever it is it seems like we’re no match for it’s drawing power.

The truth is God always gives us a way out. It may be a hard road and one that takes some time to master, but the Bible says God always provides a way of escape.

Proverbs uses the words righteous and righteousness 84 times. This is a major theme in the book.

Turn back to chapter 2 Read 1-6

God is the source of real wisdom and understanding. You’re going to find timeless wisdom in the Bible because it’s God’s Word.

Now look at verse 10 Read 10-14

The way to deal with life dominating sin is the way of wisdom. It’s learning God’s truth and then applying it to the real stuff of life. It’s getting serious with God’s truth and beginning to live it out.

If you find that your feet keep sliding towards evil then a great place to start is meditating on the cross and the sufferings of Jesus.

To recognize what He went through because of that very sin is sobering. Then you need to share your struggles with a trusted Christian friend who can pray for you and hold you accountable.

There is hope. There’s hope because the power of God is available to every believer.

We’re going to start a series on Ephesians in a couple of weeks. The first 3 chapters are all about what God has done for us and who we are in Christ.

In Ephesians 1, the apostle who was writing prays for the Christians at Ephesus. He prays they’d understand 3 things.

1. The hope of His calling (The confidence we can have in God)
2. The riches of His inheritance (The value of being in the family of God)

3. The greatness of His power toward us

And he goes on to say it's the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead 3 days after the cross. That's power.

That's the power that God will exhibit in our lives as we yield to Him.

Are you mastered by anything that is counter productive to your walk with God? Is there anything in your life that has a stronger pull or influence on you than God's spirit? Are you doing your best to guard your steps, as Proverbs has been challenging us to?

- I. *God Hates Pride*
- II. *God Hates Dishonesty*
- III. *God Hates Murder*
- IV. *God Hates Unrighteousness*
- V. *God Hates Life-Dominating Sin*
- VI. *God Hates Disloyalty* **Proverbs 6:19a**

This one overlaps with the lying tongue but it adds another dimension. Disloyalty.

Proverbs 25:18 *A man who bears false witness against his neighbor Is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.*

When we lie about someone we destroy their reputation.

Remember Richard Jewell, the security guard working the 1996 Summer Olympics in Athens, Georgia, who discovered a backpack in a park July 27 and moved people out of harm's way before it exploded, killing one and injuring 111?

An unattributed story in a local, rather large, newspaper three days later described this reluctant hero as the "focus" of the police investigation!

He was never arrested or charged. It was 88 days later when he was cleared of any suspicion in the bombing.

The investigation eventually led to the arrest and conviction of Eric Rudolph, who pled guilty and is now serving life in prison.

Richard Jewell made this observation: "Heroes are quickly forgotten but "villains" are remembered for the rest of their lives, even if they are completely exonerated."

He said, “More people know I was called a suspect than know I was the one who found the package and know I was cleared. I have become less trusting of people, paranoid and cynical.”

A bad reputation is almost impossible to live down. God wants us to get the facts straight and tell the truth, even if the truth makes us look bad. Before we undermine someone else we need to make a commitment to truth.

The words “true” and “truth” are used 282 times in the Bible. Truth is a major theme woven from beginning to end.

The Psalmist wrote: *I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me.*
Psalm 119:30

- I. *God Hates Pride*
- II. *God Hates Dishonesty*
- III. *God Hates Murder*
- IV. *God Hates Unrighteousness*
- V. *God Hates Life-Dominating Sin*
- VI. *God Hates Disloyalty*
- VII. *God Hates A Trouble Maker* **Proverbs 6:19b**

There are plenty of verses in the Bible about unity in churches. As we’ve been talking to men in our search for a youth director it’s amazing how many guys are looking because of problems in the church they’re presently in.

The Evil One is alive and well trying to disrupt God’s work and unfortunately if we get our eyes off of God and on ourselves we can be a tool in Satan’s hand to cause confusion.

We have to keep the bar really high on this one, don’t we?. We are God's representatives. Each one of us has to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

When we have questions, we need to ask them in the right spirit. When we have concerns we need to talk to the appropriate leaders, not murmur to our friends. When we have major disagreements, we have to exercise the fruit of the spirit and exercise the humility that’s necessary to preserve unity and the name of Christ.

Do you want your life to sound like me playing the viola to God and to others?

When our lives contain the things that God hates we are like fingernails on a chalk board to God and to those around us.

But, when we commit ourselves to building the things God loves into our lives we live in sync with God's character and in step with his spirit. We honor God with our lives and we bless others with our lives.