

Sermon Series: Extraordinary Direction

Sermon Title: Seven Things God Hates and How to Avoid Them

Sermon Text: Proverbs 6:16-19, 10:11, 12:8, 13:2-4, 20:27

Sermon Presenter: Pastor Larry

Introduction

“There's a reason why the curse of sin is broken. There's a reason why the darkness runs from light. There's a reason why we stand here now forgiven. Jesus is alive!” We're going to celebrate that today in a powerful way at the end of our service. Before we do that, we're going to get some extraordinary direction from our extraordinary God! So let's pray and invite our Lord to teach us by His Spirit through His Word, today. Pray with me.

Father God, I cry out to you and ask that You reveal Yourself to us in powerful ways today and that our hearts, minds and spirits will be receptive to what You have to tell us! I yield myself to You 100% as best as I know how, in the humility of knowing that I cannot within my own power do or say what needs to be done today. Acknowledging that fact I now am totally dependent on You to do what only You can do. You are here, please help us to become aware of Your extraordinary presence in such a way that our ordinary lives will be forever changed! You know the needs, the hurts and the questions of every single person here. Meet them at their point of need and transform lives. I pray this prayer believing, in the Sweet and Precious Name of Jesus! Amen!!

Last week I told you there was the smell of smoke outside my house when I left for church. I drove around and saw nothing. However, there was a fire about a mile north of our home. By the time I got home from church the fire had traveled south, jumped the railroad tracks and was on our property. We ended up with two fire departments, the forestry service and several men from our church fighting the fire. Came within 50 feet of our home but our house was saved thanks to some very brave individuals! Thank you Lord! And thanks for all the prayers! Okay, today's message has two sections, a what section and a how section. The text for section one is found in Proverbs 6:17-19. It's a powerful text and teaches us about...

What God Hates

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Prov 6:17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,

Prov 6:18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,

Prov 6:19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

This list contains seven things God hates. We'll first look at these seven things and then we'll learn how we can avoid them! There are obvious and not so obvious reasons God hates these activities!

Obvious

These activities are just plain evil
These activities involve breaking the Ten Commandments
These activities devastate other people's lives

Not so Obvious

These activities indicate the sinister motivation of self.
These activities indicate a person has become his or her own god.

As we look at the seven things God hates we will discover why a God who is love has certain things He hates deeply. We should also learn to hate and avoid these seven things. The first thing on our list that God hates is...

1. Haughty Eyes!

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:
Prov 6:17 haughty eyes...

Haughty eyes stand for the kind of wicked pride that destroys. This kind of pride causes one to no longer feel a need or want for God. It replaces God with self! Listen to the Bible's description of this sin God hates...

Psa 10:4 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.
Psa 10:5 His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies.
Psa 10:6 He says to himself, "Nothing will shake me; I'll always be happy and never have trouble."
Psa 10:7 His mouth is full of curses and lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue.

Notice how the haughty, prideful person replaces God with self. This breaks the first three commandments. No other God, no idols, and no taking the Lord's name in vain. In fact, the writer of Proverbs 21:4 says...

Proverbs 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart—the unplowed field of the wicked—produce sin.

What kind of sin? Selfishness, pettiness, arrogance, greed, and a willingness to hurt others if it advances their own agenda! They are also argumentative. Before the Lord changed my life I was so argumentative. My dad used to say, "Son, you would argue the horns off a billy goat!" I was prideful and felt like I had to always be right about everything! I was so obnoxious! Let me ask you a question: Who likes to be around a haughty, prideful person? They know everything,

you know nothing, they are better than everyone else and everyone else is less than them! A prideful person is blinded by their pride so they can't see their sin! Only The Holy Spirit can open their eyes through conviction and they have to be willing to humble themselves! If they do not repent of the sin of pride, it will destroy them! God's Word says...

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

A prideful person breaks the commandments Jesus taught were most important...

Mark 12:29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Mark 12:30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

Mark 12:31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

The haughty person neither loves God or cares for others as we'll see in the second thing God hates...

2. A Lying Tongue

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Prov 6:17 ...a lying tongue,

A lying tongue is the result of a deceived heart and a wicked mind. A lying tongue does not honor God and carelessly destroys others. A lying tongue will say whatever it must to get its own way and please itself. Listen to the Bible's description of this sin God hates...

Psa 5:9 Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with destruction. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongue they speak deceit.

"Well it was just a little white lie, it was no big deal!" God makes no distinction between little lies, and big lies. Even if you don't actually tell a lie, but the purpose of what you say is to mislead, that constitutes a lie. One of the ways we lead people away from Christ, who is the truth, is by not being truthful. The person who lies has set himself up as a god. So they also break the first and second commands. He or she thinks they can create their own truth. They do not care who they destroy with their lies and deception. They lie for their own personal gain or to destroy someone they hate. The writer of Proverbs points this out...

Prov 26:28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts...

With our tongue we either: Build up or tear down, unify or separate, encourage or discourage help or hurt, love or hate, heal or sicken, a breath life or breath of death!

The person who lies and uses their words to deceive others, or hurt another person, has a heart problem! Our Soul Compass contrasts a truthful person with a deceitful person...

Prov 12:17 A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.

Prov 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

Prov 12:19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Prov 12:20 There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace.

The third thing on our list is...

3. Hands that shed innocent blood

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Prov 6:17 ... hands that shed innocent blood,

I couldn't help but think of Ukraine, and the people dying because of crime in New Orleans! God's Word is relevant! People who shed innocent blood have a heart, mind and conscience that has been seared! They think they are gods. A person that sheds innocent blood has come to a point they think they have the right to decide who lives or dies. Only God Almighty has that right! He is the only one capable of justice, fairness, and true mercy! A person who sheds innocent blood breaks not only the first, and second commandments but also the sixth commandment which says...

Exo 20:13 "You shall not murder."

Listen to Isaiah's description of the children of Israel after they had begun practicing the things God hates...

Isa 59:1 Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

Isa 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Isa 59:3 For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

Isa 59:4 No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.

You might be thinking, "well Pastor Larry, you're not talking about me, I've never killed anybody!" Are you sure? Jesus had this to say...

Mat 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'

Mat 5:22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.

Is there someone you're not speaking to? Someone you're hating on? Someone you just can't stand? Are you murdering them in your heart? The fourth thing God hates is...

4. A heart that devises wicked schemes

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Prov 6:18 a heart that devises wicked schemes...

The person who does this has also allowed self to become a god! These people are scheming and planning evil. Not just "oops I'm tempted!" This is a person intent on doing evil. Let me say something: self is a terrible god! Self is a selfish god! Self is a god who is never satisfied. Self is a god who will enslave you and force you to do horrible wickedness! When self is god, the true God's commandments mean nothing. Listen to God's word about this sin God hates...

Psa 10:2 In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises.

Psa 10:3 He boasts of the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.

Now I realize that it sometimes seems the wicked get away with their schemes. They think they're getting away with it. Listen to what God's Word has to say...

Prov 1:29 Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD,

Prov 1:30 since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke,

Prov 1:31 they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

Prov 1:32 For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them;

In other words, in the end, they will not get away with their evil schemes. Their wickedness will come back to destroy them. When self becomes god, it will not be long before he or she also becomes self-destructive. Why this is so is found in the fifth thing God hates...

5. Feet that are quick to rush into evil

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Prov 6:18 ... feet that are quick to rush into evil,

Sometimes people aren't planning evil but they consistently fall to temptation. They are quick to rush into evil because they allow their flesh and selfish desires to control their lives. God hates this because we are allowing our flesh to become an idol. We bow down to self, thinking it will bring us happiness. It never does. However, we can be so stubborn. We just let our ambitions run wild and we sometimes make terrible decisions, hasty decisions, selfish decisions and that leads us to rush into evil. James spoke of this...

James 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

James 3:15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

James 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

History is replete with examples of those who rushed into things without thinking of the consequences. Most of us older folks here could probably take turns sharing our personal war stories. Times when we just didn't think or pray or ask God to guide us. Instead we rushed into something based on our own selfish wants and desires and it led us down paths we should never have gone! How can we avoid making these mistakes? We'll talk about that in just a moment, but we have two more things on our list of things that God hates. The next to last thing God hates is...

6. A false witness who pours out lies

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Prov 6:19 a false witness who pours out lies...

A false witness is only concerned with his or her own personal gain. They will spin the story so their personal interests are best served. They don't care if innocent people are harmed, imprisoned or even killed. Once again we're talking about an activity of one who has allowed self to become a god, little g! So it seems lying in one form or another, has appeared twice in the list of things God hates! This can only mean that truth is more important to God than most believe. The person who bears false witness breaks the ninth commandment against lying...

Exo 20:16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."

The writer of Proverbs put it this way...

Prov 23:23 Buy the truth and do not sell it;

Jesus was talking to some of the Jewish people about this very topic and they didn't understand. Listen...

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

John 8:32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

John 8:34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

They were thinking, “Even though we are under Roman rule, we aren’t their slaves.” What they failed to understand is that when you allow “self” to become your god you will become self-deceived. I’m afraid many in America today have the same view. They believe themselves to be free people, but so many are enslaved to self. Maybe sometimes the worst false testimony is found in the lies we tell ourselves! I’m okay, I’m not addicted, I’m in control. No one tells me what to do, I do my own thing. Nothing’s in control of my life but me! I could stop anytime I want, I just don’t want to! Paul said...

Romans 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools...

And then in verse 25 he said...

Romans 1:25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

There’s a lot of “false testimony” out there and God hates that. This takes us to the last item on our list and it is one that any church should be deeply concerned about. It is detestable to God when there’s...

7. A man who stirs up dissension among brothers

Prov 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

Prov 6:19 ... a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

And why does God hate dissension? Dissension divides and destroys unity! A person who stirs up dissension has elevated self to such a high level, they insist on their own way even to the detriment of their own family. They no longer care about anything but themselves. How many families have been torn apart by someone who was constantly stirring up dissension because of their own selfishness? Too many! It is more often than not, a pride thing when a person insists on always being right and they stir up dissension trying to make their case even when it’s not really that important after all. I’ve had couples, who after describing to me the details of what they were fighting about, they realized either it was a silly thing to be fighting about in the first place, or the argument was really about something else, something deeper and relational. Sometimes the family of God, the Church, the Body of Christ, has similar problems! Paul said this...

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.

Titus 3:10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.

Titus 3:11 You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Let me share with you this important caveat of information. Just because someone has questions about the way things are being done does not make them a divisive person. One of

the reasons we have a leadership team made up of 5 church members and 2 staff is so we have accountability. The members of this team are Godly men and women who care deeply about this church. They have complete freedom to question everything that we are doing. That's their job. I welcome their input, advice, experience and their walk with God. That doesn't mean I always agree with everything they say, but I consider their opinions heavily. They hold me and our staff accountable! They also hold us up in prayer and support. At Northshore Church, we also welcome the input of our members. We believe in the priesthood of the believers. In other words, God not only speaks through the preacher, but also through the members of this church. Again, this doesn't mean we always run with every idea presented to us. Sometimes ideas may not fit our DNA. That doesn't mean the idea is bad, it just means it may not fit our model. We try so hard to have unity within our church fellowship. So how do we avoid dissention? That's a great question, but since there are seven things on our list of things God hates, an even better question would be...

How to avoid what God hates!

We must never forget: God hates the sin, but loves the sinner. Remember that sin separates us from God. God wants to separate us from our sin so we can be reconciled to Him and have a thriving relationship with Him! For this to happen you must check your heart, your mind and your spirit!

Check Your Heart, Your Mind and Your Spirit!

The book of Proverbs references all three. Listen...

Prov 16:2 All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

Prov 16:21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction.

Prov 12:8 A person is praised according to their prudence, and one with a warped mind is despised.

Proverbs 20:27 The human spirit is the lamp of the LORD that sheds light on one's inmost being.

If we want to avoid what God hates we must make sure our heart is right. Followers of Christ need to make sure their hearts are still committed to Jesus and those who have never received Jesus as your Savior, you need a new heart! Why? Our actions are generated in the heart! If our motivation is wrong, everything else is going to be wrong. If our intentions are wrapped around self, then our speech and our actions will reflect that. When our motivation is right and our intentions are good then our words and actions will promote good things in the lives of others. The only way for this to happen is to allow our extraordinary God to replace our broken, darkened, sin sickened, hardened hearts, minds and lost spirits, with a new heart, new mind, and a new spirit! I love the way this is described in the Old Testament book of Ezekiel...

Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

Ezekiel 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

This passage of Scripture found its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we get a new heart, God begins the process of renewing our mind, and His Holy Spirit takes up residence within us and begins to transform us spiritually! I've put some New Testament Scriptures together that will help you get a crystal clear understanding of how this can happen in your life! Just follow me on the screen as I read to you a presentation of...

The Gospel

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

Romans 10:13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Romans 6:13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

Romans 6:21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

Romans 6:22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2 Cor 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Col 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Rom 8:5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Rom 8:6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

Our praise team is going to come back up now. You just heard the gospel, the good news of Jesus from God's Word! If you desire to have the Spirit of life and peace then you need to let go of the foolish pride and admit you're a sinner in need of a Savior! Trust what Jesus did on the Cross and allow His precious, perfect blood to cleanse you of your sins! Commit your life to Jesus by giving permission to God's Holy Spirit to bring Jesus into your heart along with His forgiveness, His mercy, His Grace, His power, His wisdom, and His anointing! We need all of these things in our thought life, our attitudes, our desires, our goals, our schedules and our actions. If you have previously accepted Jesus as your Savior, but you've not been allowing His Holy Spirit to guide your heart, your mind, your spirit, then today would be a great day to recommit your life to Him! Let's bow our heads and close our eyes for a moment. I want to lead a prayer that you could pray with me if you've never received Jesus' offer to be your Savior. If you have already received Jesus, you can pray this prayer as a prayer of recommitment! It goes like this...

Dear Jesus, I realize I am a sinner and without Your forgiveness and mercy I would be eternally lost. I humbly ask for your forgiveness, mercy and grace to be real in my heart and life. How could I ever thank You enough for Your sacrifice on the Cross to pay for my sins. I am forever grateful for your willingness to love me that much!! I commit my life to You and invite Your Holy Spirit to be my guide and to teach me daily, the truths of Your Holy Scriptures so I can begin

living a life that will bring honor and glory to You and make a difference in the lives of others! For it is in the precious Name of Jesus I pray and believe, Amen!

If you prayed that prayer for the first time today, please let one of us know so we can celebrate with you and help you grow in your relationship with Jesus. One of the most effective ways to avoid the evil God hates and to keep our hearts, minds, flesh and spirit in check is to remember the costly sacrifice Jesus made for us at the Cross so we could have salvation and hope. During this time of invitation I invite you to go to one of the tables where we have bread and juice. The Bread represents the broken Body of Jesus. He was pierced for our transgressions! The juice represents the blood of Jesus poured out to wash our sins away! As you remember the cost of Jesus' sacrifice to pay for the times we've been involved in the things God hates, remember these words of Paul the Apostle...

Eph 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Eph 4:31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Eph 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

Eph 5:2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.