



June 19 .....Humility/Pride  
June 26 ..... Integrity/Impurity  
July 03 ..... Justice/Injustice  
July 10 .. Righteousness/Idolatry  
July 17 ..... Obedience/Rebellion  
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July 31 ..... Unity/Division





# Pastor's Introduction

Many people are surprised when they come to this section of the Proverbs and learn that there are things that God hates. "God is love," they protest. That is absolutely true. 1 John 4:8 says, "The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love." But there are also things that God does not like. Proverbs 6:16 reads, "The LORD hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him." This "six, in fact seven" phrase is a Hebrew idiom that was commonly used in biblical times. In this passage, the writer is informing us of things that the Lord doesn't like. They are character traits and actions that are opposed to the character of God. The two Hebrew words translated "hates" and "detestable" really mean that. These are things that are enemies of God. They are things that are an abomination to Him. To me, that means that we really should pay attention to what He says. We certainly don't want to do or be anything that the Lord hates. As we read through this proverb, we can discern what the Lord loves and esteems based off what He says is detestable to Him.

In our new summer sermon series, we will examine the seven things that the Lord says are detestable to Him. The series is entitled, "Love/Hate" because we will see each week what the Lord loves and what the Lord hates. Be ready to check your heart as we strive to live lives that are pleasing in God's sight.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Green".

Ed. TG



**Participant Guide for June 19, 2021**

## **Humility/Pride**

Proverbs 6:17

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### Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. The medieval church had its list of “seven deadly sins.” Without looking at the bottom of the page, can you name all 7? Why do you think the church labeled these sins deadly? How can they lead to death? One commentator writes that this passage in Proverbs could be described as Israel’s “seven deadly sins.” How does the list from Proverbs 6:16-19 align with the medieval church’s “seven deadly sins?”
2. In Hebrew, the phrase “arrogant eyes” literally means “lifted up eyes.” What do you think the author means by “lifted up eyes?” Why did he pick the eyes for this metaphor?
3. How can our eyes lead us into sin or pride? What are some practical ways to turn from our pride and humble ourselves before the Lord? How can we humble ourselves before others?
4. Read Philippians 2:1-11: How does Paul describe Jesus humbling himself in this passage? Jesus cast aside everything to secure our salvation. How should the fact that we do not deserve this grace of salvation influence how we display pride or humility?
5. Raymond Ortlund writes, “When the Old Testament uses this literary device (x // x + 1), as in “three // four” (Proverbs 30:18–19, 29–31) or “six // seven,” it is the last item in the list that matters most. The seventh thing the Lord hates, “one who sows discord among brothers,” is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates.” Each week we’ll talk about how what God hates leads to division among Christians. Then we’ll talk about how its comparative loving trait leads to unity among Christians.
  - How does pride lead to sowing discord among the brothers? How does our humility help to unify us?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Is pride sneaking up on you in any areas of your life? This week ask God to reveal where you may be prideful but unaware.

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(pride, anger, envy, impurity, gluttony, slothfulness, and avarice)



Participant Guide for June 26, 2021

## Integrity/Impurity

Proverbs 6:17

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### Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. Who is one person you think of when you hear integrity? What makes them a person of integrity? Can you think of a specific instance they showed integrity?
2. In 1 Kings 9:4, God tells Solomon to walk with integrity in his heart like King David. If David was not perfect in integrity, why did God call him an example? How can we be leaders who walk with integrity in our hearts? How can we help our church leaders walk with integrity in their hearts?
3. God says in Proverbs 28:6, "Better the poor person who lives with integrity than the rich one who distorts right and wrong" (CSB). Why would living with integrity bring a better life than living with wealth? (Read Proverbs 2:7, 11:3).
4. When most hear of "impurity," they think of sexual sin (see Rom. 1:24). Romans 6:19 said we were once slaves to impurity. How does God cleanse us from this impurity?
5. Is battling sexual impurity an important issue in the church today? What are ways we can fight sin as a church? How does this hurt our witness to the world?
6. Raymond Ortland writes, "When the Old Testament uses this literary device (x // x + 1), as in "three // four" (Proverbs 30:18–19, 29–31) or "six // seven," it is the last item in the list that matters most. The seventh thing the Lord hates, "one who sows discord among brothers," is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates." Each week we'll talk about how what God hates leads to division among Christians. Then we'll talk about how its comparative loving trait leads to unity among Christians.
  - How does impurity lead to sowing discord among the brothers? How does our integrity help to unify us?

## Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- ◆ Repent of your impurity and walk with integrity in your heart.

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**Participant Guide for July 3, 2021**

## Justice/Injustice

Proverbs 6:17

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### Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. When you were growing up, can you think of a moment where you believed your parents were being completely unjust? (Whether they actually were or weren't!) Why was there a perceived injustice from your point of view?
2. Do humans learn what is just versus unjust, or is there some concept of justice that is natural to us? Discuss your answers.
3. Read Matthew 23:23: How does Jesus describe justice in this passage? What emphasis does Jesus put on justice? Why is he chastising the scribes and Pharisees for neglecting these things?
4. Read Genesis 4:8-16: One of the first recorded sins outside the garden involves the shedding of human blood. What was the price of the injustice Cain carried out against Able? What does this story teach us about God's justice and judgment? What does it teach us about his grace despite our sin?
5. How would you answer someone who believes that God is not just? They may say something like, "How can a just God send a good person to hell?" Why is God just when he confronts sin and holds people accountable?
6. Raymond Ortlund writes, "When the Old Testament uses this literary device ( $x // x + 1$ ), as in "three // four" (Proverbs 30:18–19, 29–31) or "six // seven," it is the last item in the list that matters most. The seventh thing the Lord hates, "one who sows discord among brothers," is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates." Each week we'll talk about how what God hates leads to division among Christians. Then we'll talk about how its comparative loving trait leads to unity among Christians.
  - How does injustice lead to sowing discord among the brothers? How does our seeking of justice help to unify us?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ What does practicing justice as we are called to do by Jesus look like in your life?

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**Participant Guide for July 10, 2021**

## **Righteousness/Idolatry**

Proverbs 6:18

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### **Highlight**

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### **Explain**

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. Notice how the first five items describe the whole body. How does each item move down from the head to the feet? What point is the author of the passage trying to make with this illustration?
2. We are made in the image of God. This is commonly known as the “*imago Dei*.” How does each of these things that the Lord detests corrupt part of our image?
3. If we are made to honor the image of God as a testimony to others, how do these moral characteristics hurt our testimony in front of those with whom we work, live, and play?
4. Read Luke 6:45: How can both goodness and wickedness flow from our hearts and mouths? When there is wickedness in our hearts, why does it always seem to end up flowing through our mouths? How do you push down the wickedness so that goodness can overflow?
5. How do we hold one another accountable for growing in righteousness? How can we be brave enough to confront each other when we see signs of idolatry creeping in?
6. Raymond Ortlund writes, “When the Old Testament uses this literary device ( $x // x + 1$ ), as in “three // four” (Proverbs 30:18–19, 29–31) or “six // seven,” it is the last item in the list that matters most. The seventh thing the Lord hates, “one who sows discord among brothers,” is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates.” Each week we’ll talk about how what God hates leads to division among Christians. Then we’ll talk about how its comparative loving trait leads to unity among Christians.
  - How does idolatry lead to sowing discord among the brothers? How does our righteousness help to unify us?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Who is helping you live a life of righteousness? If the answer is “no one,” then now is the right time to find someone!



**Participant Guide for July 17, 2021**

## **Obedience/Rebellion**

Proverbs 6:18

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### Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. Honesty time: do/did you have “that one friend” that always seems to get you into trouble? Or... were you that friend for someone else? What were some of the influences or habits that led to trouble?
2. How was rebellion introduced to the world? What does it say about fallen humanity that thousands of years later, our rebellion is often aided by someone else?
3. Why are actions of obedience more important than mere words? How does what we do reflect our hearts more than what we say?
4. Read John 14:15: What does Jesus mean when he tells the disciples, “If you love me, you will keep my commands”? What is the relationship between love and obedience? Can you love someone without obeying what they ask of you? How does 1 John 5:3 reinforce this relationship?
5. Raymond Ortland writes, “When the Old Testament uses this literary device ( $x // x + 1$ ), as in “three // four” (Proverbs 30:18–19, 29–31) or “six // seven,” it is the last item in the list that matters most. The seventh thing the Lord hates, “one who sows discord among brothers,” is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates.” Each week we’ll talk about how what God hates leads to division among Christians. Then we’ll talk about how its comparative loving trait leads to unity among Christians.
  - How does rebellion lead to sowing discord among the brothers? How does our obedience help to unify us?

## Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- ◆ This week, identify areas where you struggle in daily obedience to God? What habits or influences in your life lead to rebellion?

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**Participant Guide for July 24, 2021**

## **Truth/Deceit**

Proverbs 6:19

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### Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



## Apply

1. Has there ever been a time when you were cooking and added in something that ruined the whole dish? What happened? How can one bad ingredient ruin the entire dish?
2. Do you have a family member or co-worker that feels like it's their job to disrupt and sew discord among the group? Without revealing any names, talk about a time when you've had to work through a situation where someone constantly caused problems. Of the six things the Lord hates here, was this person guilty of anything listed?
3. As Christians, what is our responsibility in building God-honoring relationships? Why is it so much easier to destroy a relationship than building one up?
4. How does the way that we treat others reflect what we say that we believe about God?
5. Why is it important for Christians to be able to define what truth is? How do we lovingly share what we believe to be "capital T" Truth in a world where truth is relative?
6. Raymond Ortland writes, "When the Old Testament uses this literary device ( $x // x + 1$ ), as in "three // four" (Proverbs 30:18–19, 29–31) or "six // seven," it is the last item in the list that matters most. The seventh thing the Lord hates, "one who sows discord among brothers," is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates." Each week we'll talk about how what God hates leads to division among Christians. Then we'll talk about how its comparative loving trait leads to unity among Christians.
  - How does deceit lead to sowing discord among the brothers? How does seeking truth help to unify us?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Read 1 Timothy 2:3-4 this week. With whom are you regularly sharing the "knowledge of the truth?"

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**Participant Guide for July 31, 2021**

## **Unity/Division**

Proverbs 6:19

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### Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

### Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:

Hate is a strong word when used in light of our personal relationships. It is even stronger in light of God's holiness.

Unity is Christ's prayer for us. We should pursue it at all costs.



## Apply

1. When you express hatred toward something, what drives your hatred? Pride/Ego? How is your hatred satisfied? Apology? Forgiveness? Dismissal?
2. When God expresses hatred toward something, what drives His hatred? How is God's hatred satisfied? (Judgement? Propitiation?)
3. Read John 17:21-23. Discuss how your experience with believers compares to Jesus' desire for us.
4. What are a few things we need to do personally and as a church to bring Jesus' desire closer to a reality in our fellowship?
5. Why is unity essential in the body of Christ? For the Great Commission? For your personal calling/ministry?
6. Why is unity so difficult to achieve in a group bigger than 1?
7. Raymond Ortlund writes, "When the Old Testament uses this literary device ( $x // x + 1$ ), as in "three // four" (Proverbs 30:18–19, 29–31) or "six // seven," it is the last item in the list that matters most. The seventh thing the Lord hates, "one who sows discord among brothers," is the key to understanding the other six things the Lord hates." Each week we'll talk about how what God hates leads to division among Christians. Then we'll talk about how its comparative loving trait leads to unity among Christians.
  - What has this series taught you about unity and division?

## Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Is there anything you need to do personally to remove divisiveness in your life? Is there a divisiveness in our church that you can be part of a solution to?
- ◆ Because God's desire for His church is unity, resolve to accept no excuse for divisiveness in your life and church.