

05/03/26 Message

Part of What Does God NOT Want

May 2, 2026

Message: Scheming

Series: What Does God NOT Want

Background

A follow-up series to “What Does God Want” which built on this premise:

What does God want from me?

- This year
- Today
- Right Now

When we ask ourselves that, we're seeking the heart and will of God. And when we ask with intention we're asking with the intention we will change to be and do what God wants. And when we ask with that intention, God will answer your question. He will reveal things to you that you'd never know, maybe things you've never even thought of before. What does God want from you this year, today, right now?

—Pastor Chad

Stemming from a verse found in the OT:

Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV)

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

This follow-up series explores and highlights what God doesn't want us to do. We have to get sin out of the way and enter the presence of God. Then we have His full attention and He is there!

—Pastor Chad

Proverbs 6:16-19 (ESV)

16 There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies, one who sows discord among brothers.

God Doesn't Want Your Scheming

I'll be honest, I wanted to look that word up so I could get the exact definition of it. And here it is...

Schemes are organized plans, systems, or plots, often referring to a structured arrangement or a sometimes sneaky strategy to achieve a goal. Down to basics, the action is simple, it's a sneaky way to get what you want! Ever done that? Ever had that done to you? I bet most of us have done this recently. Because we're wired by the environment surrounding us, and the sinful world we live in, to scheme. We don't think of it that way, but it doesn't make it less true. Our actions speak louder than our perspective. God doesn't want our schemes, and it doesn't matter if they're directed at Him or directed at someone else!

—Pastor Chad

- Read the Great Commandment in **Matthew 22:36-40**

Key Passage:

Zechariah 8:16-17 (NLT)

16 "But this is what you must do: Tell the truth to each other. Render verdicts in your courts that are just and that lead to peace.

17 Don't scheme against each other. Stop your love of telling lies that you swear are the truth. I hate all these things, says the Lord."

That word scheme requires that someone devise or plan something against God or against someone else. It's a plot to manipulate, contriving with maliciousness. Crazy thing is... not all lies are loud. Some are quiet and

calculated and strategic. They're not just slip ups, they're schemes. People tell lies to protect their image, lies to avoid consequences, lies to get ahead, and lies to control the outcome. And we justify the lies because there's always a reason, and the reason often only benefits us, at the cost of whatever gets in the way.

—Pastor Chad

God's View of Scheming

- God hates DISHONESTY

Proverbs 12:22 (NLT)

The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in those who tell the truth.

- Lies are the language of the ENEMY

John 8:42-44 (NLT)

42 Jesus told them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, because I have come to you from God. I am not here on My own, but He sent me.

43 Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear Me!

44 For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

So, when Jesus told them, you are imitating your father, he's talking about the father of lies, the enemy, Satan himself! Dang Jesus, that cut like a sharp knife!

To that He steps back, tears in His eyes, He whispers, but it's the truth! Because it's consistent with your character. You are following your father, and it's only one or the other, God your Father in heaven, or Satan the father of lies. That should be a hefty dose of truth this morning. Every lie has a source and either it's God or it's not God. When we scheme and lie, we step out of the truth. We step out of the light and into the dark. We step out of truth and into deception. Because you can't walk in truth while

speaking lies.

—Pastor Chad

If you trust in God and believe in Jesus as you follow Him, you reflect His nature, His character, and God is truth! He tells us that in **John 14:6** I am the way, the truth, and the life! **John 17:17** says your word is truth! **Isaiah 65:16** calls God the God of truth! Jesus often called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth!

Is that the nature that you reflect?

- Schemes built on lies always COLLAPSE

Read about Ananias and Sapphira in **Acts 5**

- GUARD your mouth and WALK in truth

Psalm 34:13 (NLT)

...keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies.

Truth isn't something that happens by chance. Truth is not accidental, it's intentional. It only happens when you actively choose honesty, when you resist exaggeration, and when you refuse manipulation. Because schemes don't always sound like lies. Sometimes a scheme drives you to leave out part of the story. Sometimes a scheme requires you to embellish. Sometimes a scheme is simple, it's just telling someone what you think they want to hear. But partial truth is still deception, and a partial lie is still a lie! God isn't asking for you to always look good, He's asking you to always be truthful.

—Pastor Chad

- Your CHOICES reveal your HEART

Ask Yourself

- Where am I not being fully truthful in my life?
- Where am I managing perception instead of walking in integrity?
- Where have I used a lie to control an outcome?

Schemes may protect you temporarily but they will cost you

spiritually! They will fracture your relationship with God!

- If you've been hiding in the dark, come into the light!
- If you've been deceiving, choose truth!
- If you've been scheming, release control, turn it over to God!

God honors truth! God is truth! God wants truth, in your words, in your heart, in your life! It's always best to choose what is right. God calls that righteousness! That's what God wants from you!

—Pastor Chad