



# gracefellowship

Series: Letters to My Children  
Date: November 13, 2022

Title: Freedom in Death  
Passage: Proverbs 6

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 6

When you read through Proverbs 6 you notice several things God warns us about when it comes to a foolish way of life. The heart of a good parent is to warn their children about dangers in life and help them avoid the pitfalls. We've said it before in this series, but it is worth repeating: The school of hard knocks is a wonderful teacher, but if you can learn from the mistakes of someone else, without going through them yourself it's even better!

So, we find some warnings in this chapter that I want to highlight for a minute and then we are going to focus in more clearly on verses 16-19.

First, we are warned in Proverbs 6:1-5 not to be unwise with our money. We have to be careful about extending an open line of credit to people and becoming a source of continual provision to them.

The second warning is about being a sluggard. When you read Proverbs 6:6-11 you see an admonishment to not become lazy. There is a major difference between restfulness and being a sluggard. Rest allows us to recharge in order to go back into productivity. The sluggard has no drive, no ambition, and makes no contribution to the good of society, but becomes dependent on society to take care of them.

The third warning we find in Proverbs 6 is a warning not to stir up trouble for others. There are people who enjoy conflict and plot ways to make life miserable for others. This destroys community and fellowship. Solomon warns us that sudden disaster overtakes people who stir up conflict.

Then the final warning we find in the chapter is a warning against adultery. Last week we talked about how adultery begins in the heart and mind before any physical actions are taken. God tells us through Solomon's writing that if play around with lust and adultery it leads to us being burned! He asked the questions:

“Can you scoop fire into your lap without your clothes being burned? Can you walk across hot coals without your feet being scorched?” Having an affair, lusting in your heart, looking at pornography- it all has the ability to burn you and destroy your life.

Couched right in the middle of all these warnings is a section I want to spend a little more time on today. When you get to Proverbs 6:16-19 you read this:

**:: Proverbs 6:16-19**

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

**17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood,**

**18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,**

**19 a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.**

It's interesting that God lets us know here the things He hates. We often associate God as being all loving- and He is. Love is God's defining characteristic. But that doesn't mean God loves everything. God hates what is evil. The things that have broken His perfect creation and the things that have resulted from sin break the heart of God.

God's love draws us into relationship with Him. But to be in that relationship we have to know what makes God angry and what breaks His heart. Then we have to be willing to make the necessary changes and work with the Holy Spirit to dig those things out of our lives so we can be in the best possible relationship with God.

If you have lived with someone for any extended period of time- a spouse, a child or parent, a roommate- you can probably identify pretty quickly some things they don't like. You know what makes them go crazy. Some of you use that knowledge as a weapon! But if you really love people you are in relationship with you try to do everything possible to avoid doing the things they hate. You want to preserve the relationship, so you make the necessary changes in your life to avoid the things that frustrate your loved one. In this passage God is telling us the things that sin brings into our lives that He hates and wants to help us put to death.

### **What does God hate?**

1. **Haughty eyes:** Being prideful or arrogant (Philippians 2- Jesus took on the nature of a servant)
2. **A lying tongue:** Speaking falsehood knowingly and willingly with the intention to deceive others.
  - a. Jesus told us that Satan is the father of lies. You are never more like Satan than when you are lying- you are speaking a language he invented. Is it any wonder that God hates this attribute in us?

3. **Hands that shed innocent blood:** both actual murder and hate without room for forgiveness. In the same way Jesus took the act of lusting after someone in our heart and said it was adultery, he said that hating someone in our heart is murder. God hates when we harbor violence against others in our hearts.
4. **A heart that devises wicked schemes:** Planning evil against others for personal benefit or other misguided objectives (terrorism). God hates when we sit down and use brain power and physical resources to plot against others in a way that would bring them down or harm them.
5. **Feet that are quick to rush into evil:** This means you have no resistance to sin and when temptation comes against you, you fold like a lawn chair! It grieves the heart of God to see His kids have a desire for sin that eclipses our desire for Him.
6. **A false witness who pours out lies:** This ties in with a lying tongue and why there are six things God hates and seven that are detestable to Him. Solomon lists 7 things, but two of them are basically the same. When you see a false witness you might think of a courtroom setting where someone lies on the stand under oath. God hates when we lie against someone in a way that could result in their imprisonment or death.
7. **A person who stirs up conflict in the community:** God absolutely hates the destruction of unity- especially when it is planned and strategic.

This actually ties in with the 3<sup>rd</sup> warning we found in the chapter:

**:: Proverbs 6:12-15**

**12 A troublemaker and a villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth,  
13 who winks maliciously with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers,  
14 who plots evil with deceit in his heart— he always stirs up conflict.  
15 Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.**

When you look over this list of things God hates, here's what I hope you see:

**God hates things that destroy relationships.**

We talk about this all the time, but God is a God of relationships. Sin destroyed our perfect fellowship and harmony with God, but it also destroyed our relationships with one another. God has eternally existed in the divine Trinitarian relationship as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There has never been a moment that God was alone. When He created Adam in the garden the only thing about creation that God said wasn't good was Adam being alone. God made Eve and Adam was no longer alone- he had someone like him to share life with. But what happened the moment sin entered the picture? Adam threw Eve under the bus! Then God warned Eve that her desire would be to rule over Adam, but he would take authority over her.

By the time we get one generation in to the human story we find all of the sins God hates already at play in the world.

Cain and Abel, who are the children of Adam and Eve, go to offer sacrifices to God; God accepts Abel's sacrifice, but rejects Cain's. This is presumably more about the heart with which they made the sacrifice, not the sacrifice itself.

- Haughty eyes: Cain demonstrates pride and arrogance. Instead of changing his heart posture toward God he becomes angry and his face is downcast.
- Feet quick to rush into evil: God then warns Cain that sin is crouching at his door and that Cain has to rule over it
- A heart that devises wicked schemes: Cain makes a plan to take his brother out into a field away from their family where he intends to kill him.
- Hands that shed innocent blood: Cain kills Abel in cold blood, leaving his lifeless body alone and separated from the community.
- A lying tongue: When God comes to Cain and asks: "Where is your brother, Abel?" Cain's reply is: "I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"
- A person who stirs up conflict in the community: Cain destroyed unity through murder, but then was exiled by God away from his family.

As we read in Proverbs about the things God hates and we read in Scripture about the way sin devastates our lives, we are meant to ask the question:

**Do I hate the things God hates and sees as evil?**

God hates sin and wickedness. He is holy; therefore sin has no place in His presence. Thankfully, God did not leave us to die in our sins. He sent Jesus to die in our place. The blood of Jesus covers the sins I commit when I receive Him as my Savior. Then God places His Spirit in my life to convict me of sin and I begin to work in partnership with the Spirit to destroy sinful urges and sinful patterns in my life.

In fact, I want to look at Romans 6 for the remainder of our time this morning and see what Paul says about putting sin to death so we can live in freedom.

**:: Romans 6:1-14**

**1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?**

**2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?**

**3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?**

**4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**

What Jesus has given us in His death and resurrection is an invitation into a new life that is not dominated by sin's grip. We don't live in sin any longer! In baptism

we are not only showing a picture of death, burial and resurrection, we are actually identifying with Jesus' death, putting our sins in the grave and being raised into new life under the Lordship of Jesus. Our sin is no longer our Master. We have a new way of life controlled by Jesus and empowered by His Spirit that allows us to say "no" to sin.

**5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

**6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—**

**7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.**

John Owen, a Puritan author, wrote about the work of dying to sin in his book, *The Mortification of Sin.*"

**"The power of sin is weakened little by little, so that we should 'no longer be enslaved to sin'; that is, so that sin should not be our master and control us as before. This includes not only our fleshly desires, but those of the mind and the will which are in opposition to God." – John Owen**

**8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.**

**9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.**

**10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

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

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

**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.**

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

When Paul says, "Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness," here's how I think you can apply that:

- Don't let evil have a role to play in your physical life (using your hands, feet, mouth, mind for evil)
- Don't let evil invade your spiritual life.
- Don't let evil have space to operate in your relationships.

No part of your life should offer safe harbor to sin. Instead, offer every part of yourself to God and be used as an instrument of righteousness.

Here's the truth: every one of us gets the same warning that Cain received from God- "Watch out! Sin is crouching at your door waiting to devour you." We have to decide if we are going to fight against sin in the power of the Holy Spirit or if we are going to have feet that are quick to rush into evil. You know the area of personal sin that continues to fight for life in your body even though you have crucified it. It's still fighting with every last breath to bring you down and put roots down in your life. My prayer is that we are not like Cain. My prayer is that we will recognize our sinful temptations and fight against them rather than giving in to them. The only way we can do that is by daily agreeing with God that He is in control and reminding ourselves we have died to sin in order to live for Christ.

So, here is the question: **Are you willing to go to war against your sin?**

- Does your heart break over the things God hates?
- Do you call things good that are evil?
- Will you work to preserve relationship in healthy ways? Remember, everything God hates is destructive of relationships.

Invitation

Prayer

Closing Song