



THE BOOK OF PROVERBS 4U



PART 2

3. THE SEVEN THINGS GOD HATES

Read Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things the Lord hates, indeed, seven are an abomination to Him. Pr.6:16

The seven listed are abominations to God, the sins all doing hurt to family, friends, neighbours and others. Such knowledge of God's abominations gives moral guidance in private and public life and should, with the Ten commandments, be part of the framework on which society is based. When neglected there is an inevitable slide in standards as is prevalent today in some western countries. God's blessings of happiness and prosperity disappear, declining with the passing of each generation. Only Repentance, private and public can bring people back to God.

* 1 A PROUD LOOK.

God detests all human pride, arrogance and this includes spiritual pride. The Book of Proverbs is the source of some English proverbs, as the well-known – "Pride comes before a fall."

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

* 2 A LYING TONGUE.

Lying lips are extremely disgusting and hateful to the Lord. Pr 12:22

* 3 HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD.

If a man wilfully sheds the blood of a person, he is fleeing to the pit (the grave) and hastening to his own destruction; let no man stop him. Pr 28:17

* 4 A HEART OF WICKED THOUGHTS AND PLANS.

A man of wicked plots and plans is hated. Pr 14:17

* 5 FEET THAT ARE SWIFT IN RUNNING TO EVIL.

Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. Pr 1:16

* 6 A FALSE WITNESS WHO BREATHES OUT LIES.

A false witness utters deceit. Pr 12:17

* 7 HE WHO SOWS DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN.

Wilful and contrary in his heart, he devises trouble, vexation and evil continually; he lets loose discord and sows it. Pr 6:14

The voice of God's Wisdom, in the following text, sums up the THINGS GOD HATES –

The reverent fear and worshipful awe of the Lord (includes) the hatred of evil; pride, arrogance, the evil way, and perverted and twisted speech I hate. Pr 8:13

4. FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

In families, unlike friendships, one is always a part of that family; even though living distances apart. Some family members can be very close and much loved. God in the centre of a family is the basis of stable marriages and good relationships in the home. The Book of Proverbs clearly states that a home and family unit is to be built on the firm foundation of Godly wisdom. An upright father, walking in obedience and the ways of the Lord, is enabled to lead his family according to biblical principles. Such parental values are to be lived out primarily in the home before the children. Children are to be loved, but need boundaries to help train them in good ways. Young children need to learn the difference between right and wrong. The conscience of a child is very sensitive and generally they know when they are doing wrong – telling a lie, telling stories by not speaking the truth.

The young copy their parents and learn from them - good ways or bad. In a good and loving home where the Lord is truly honoured, God's blessings rest. The children feel safe and secure and grow up, usually, to be responsible members of society. Standards of right and wrong and the need for a forgiving spirit, when taught in the home, promote good relationships in families, and extended families; also in friendships and all other social interactions, including political life, local and national.

Of course, it must be understood that in godly homes, there are children who are rebellious and who take the broad way. Even so, many children difficult to raise turn out well in later years, especially when they are converted and begin to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only a few of Solomon's many proverbs on the Family can be included in this section.

THE PROVERBS of Solomon: A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish and self-confident son is the grief of his mother. Pr 10:1 (17:21,25)



Love covers all transgressions.

Pr 10:12

A good man leaves an Inheritance to his children's children.

Pr 13:22

He who spares the rod (of discipline) hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently

Pr 13:24 (Pr 19:18)

Chastisement should always be administered in love; and usually hurts the parents more.

Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands.

Pr 14:1

In the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children shall always have a place of refuge.

Pr 14:26

The Lord tears down the house of the proud, but He makes secure the boundaries of the (consecrated) widow.

Pr 15:25

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS – continued

Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their fathers.
Pr 17:6

A brother offended is harder to be won over than a strong city, and (their) contentions separate them like the bars of a castle.
Pr 18:19

He who finds a (true) wife finds a good thing and obtains favour of the Lord.
Pr 18:22

Discipline you son while there is hope, but do not by undue chastisements set yourself to his ruin.
Pr 19:18

The righteous man walks in his integrity; blessed are his children after him.
Pr 20:7

It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than in a house shared with a nagging, quarrelsome and faultfinding woman.
Pr 21:9

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.
Pr 22:6

SAYINGS OF THE WISE

Read Proverbs 23:19-35

In this chapter, more wise advice is given concerning the avoidance of immoral women and drunkenness with their consequences of misery and woes.

This next proverb is a fitting conclusion, for it sums up the whole subject of Family relationships.

Through skilful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built; and by understanding it is established (on a sound and good foundation).
Pr 24:3

5. FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Friends and neighbours, unlike family members, usually come and go during one's life. Some life-long friendships are dearer and closer than the family bond. Friendships enjoyed when young are not usually the same friendships when older, because people move away. Also it is good and gives a sense of hope for the future, to realise as one gets older new friendships will be made, as yet unknown.



There are good friends, old friends and new; and all such friendships are valuable. It is important in friendships to be loyal, not to take friends for granted, but to show kindness and be friendly to those in need. It is wise in friendships and in church fellowships not to bear grudges and not to live with bitterness for such attitudes cause splits. As one of the proverbs states, it is wise to ignore an insult and instead realise the need to move on, forgive and forget.

Solomon's proverbs include many wise words of advice for friends and neighbours and about avoiding bad friends and their influences - as the following selected texts state so clearly and concisely.

Do not contrive evil against your neighbour, who dwells trustingly beside you.

Pr 3:29

The following text refers to Pledges (PART 3). A pledge is not a kindness but an unwise promise to pay the debts of a neighbour or friend.

Deliver yourself when you have put yourself into the power of your neighbour.

Pr 6:3

With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbour.

Pr 11:9

He who belittles or despises his neighbour lacks sense.

Pr 11:12

The righteous man is a guide to his neighbour, but the way of the wicked causes others to go astray..

Pr 12:26

A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

Pr 16: 28

He who covers or forgives an offence seeks love, but he who repeats of harps on a matters separates even close friends.

Pr 17:9

The man of many friends will prove himself a bad friend, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Pr 18:24

The soul of the wicked seeks evil; his neighbour finds no favour in his eyes.

Pr 21:10

6. RICHES AND POVERTY

There are many proverbs on this subject. God's wisdom develops prudence and carefulness in money matters and consequently the avoidance of extravagance with resulting debt. However, debt can arise by a sudden reversal of circumstances in the family, such as death, ill-health and the loss of work by one or both parents. However, in these circumstances, there are streams in the desert in walking by faith and trusting God. God's promises in Proverbs give great encouragement in all these matters, both monetary and spiritual wealth.

The Sovereign Lord condemns greed in all its forms, especially the desire to gain wealth at the expense of others. Some, although having enough, often want more and strive to get more to the detriment of family happiness. Such people do not win in the end, for riches are not everything. Time spent gaining more money is often time lost with one's children, but time when given to the young is never wasted. When children get older, precious time is always remembered and valued, whereas their compensating expensive toys are forgotten and often soon broken. Other sayings in this section, as throughout the Bible, are about God's concern for the poor and the needy - for human kindness and generosity to those in poverty, a kindness which never leads to poverty. Jesus always manifested compassion and kindness.

Honour the Lord with your substance. Pr 3:9

Withhold not good from those to whom it is due when it is in the power of your hand to do it. Pr 3:27

Those who love me (Wisdom) inherit true riches and fill their treasuries. Pr 8:21

The blessing of the Lord - it makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it. Pr 10:22

There are those who generously scatter abroad and yet increase more; there are those who withhold more but it results only in want. Pr 11:24

Wealth won in haste or unjustly will dwindle away, but he who gathers little by little will increase. Pr 13:11

Poverty and shame come to him who refuses instruction and correction, but he who heeds reproof is honoured. Pr 13:18

Happy is he who is kind and merciful to the poor. Pr 14:21

He who oppresses the poor mocks his Maker, but he who is kind and merciful to the needy honours Him. Pr 14:31



RICHES AND POVERTY - continued

Better is little with the reverent fear of the Lord than great and rich treasure and trouble with it. Pr 15:16

He who is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live. Pr 15:27

Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues with injustice. Pr 16:8

Whoever mocks the poor reproaches his Maker, and he who is glad at calamity shall not be held innocent or go unpunished. Pr 17:5

Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is perverse in his speech and is a self-confident fool. Pr 19:1

Wealth makes many friends, but the poor man is avoided by his neighbour. Pr 19:4

He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and that which he has given He will repay to him. Pr 19:17

An inheritance hastily gotten at the beginning, in the end it will not be blessed. Pr 20:21

Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor will cry out himself and not be heard. Pr 21:13

He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich. Pr 21:17

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour than silver and gold. The rich and poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all. Pr 22:1-2

He who has a bountiful eye shall be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. Pr 22:9

He who oppresses the poor to get gain for himself and he who gives to the rich – both will surely come to want. Pr:22:16

BOOK OF PROVERBS



PART 3 follows next.

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