

**First Baptist Church Merritt Island**  
**Executive Pastor Carey Dean**  
**August 17, 2025**  
**SCHOOL OF WISDOM – Life Lessons from Proverbs**  
**A God Who Hates?**  
**Proverbs 6:16-19**

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I think this room has two kinds of people: Where are my lovers of books, stories, and words? And what about my math-loving, Excel-building, problem-solving people?

Growing up, I was definitely in that second group. I loved the challenge, the patterns, the process. And I am proud and unashamed to tell you this morning that I was on every math team we had, and I loved it.

One part of math always intrigued me: the geometry proof. A proof was like solving a mystery. You began with the “givens,” the facts you already knew. Then, step by step, each backed by truth, you arrived at a conclusion you could be certain was always true.

This morning, in the School of Wisdom, we’re going to geometry class. But not to prove a triangle is congruent. Can I get an “amen!”? We’re here to prove something about the character of the LORD that is just as certain, and far more life changing.

Let’s open our bibles this morning to Proverbs 6:16-19 for our study for this morning.

***Proverbs 6:16–19***

***There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.***

For many, the opening phrase, *The LORD hates*, is jarring. Even enough to make us want to stop listening. But that shock may be exactly what we need, because it reveals an important side of His love. So don’t close your ears.

I want you to open your heart to this truth we’re going to walk through together: Because God loves, He hates what destroys what He loves. And like any good proof, we will get there, step by step:

Step 1: God’s wrath stands against anything that destroys what He loves.

Step 2: God’s love delights in and protects what reflects His holiness.

Conclusion: Because God loves, He hates what destroys what He loves.

Our first step is to slow down and hear what God is really saying when He tells us He hates something.

Step 1 — God’s wrath stands against anything that destroys what He loves.

**“Hate” is a sobering word, especially from the heart of the God who so loved the world. But Scripture doesn’t soften it. Instead, it shows us how fiercely He stands against what threatens the people He loves.**

**The Hebrew word here is saw-NAY (*śānē’*).** It speaks of God’s holy and settled opposition to all that destroys what He loves. It is never reckless, petty, or fueled by pride. It is measured and pure. It is the moral fire of His holiness, standing against every threat to His creation, especially those harming the people He made in His image.

The verse just before ours (Proverbs 6:12-15) sketch the “wicked person” whose path ends in ruin. Our verses pull back the curtain to show what God sees inside: a person clinging to sin.

This is where the list becomes more than a list. Proverbs 6:16-19 describes how sin works its way through us: head to toe, inside out...our eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet, and even the name we carry.

His heart is moved to action when His creation is being stolen by sin. That’s why Proverbs 6:16–19 is a warning for our good, not our condemnation. It is God’s wisdom keeping us alert to the vulnerable places where temptation tries to gain entry. Once sin is welcomed, it plants its seed and grows into an all-out war against His good design. Before we walk through the list, hear this: Proverbs is not meant to arm us to judge others but to search our own hearts before the LORD.

These sins rarely rush in like an invading army because those would be easy to recognize and resist. Instead, they creep in quietly through a glance, a thought, a word, an attitude. Left unchecked, those small beginnings grow into the very things God hates. And the sobering truth is this: every one of us is capable of them.

One practical reason God lists them here is so we can see them clearly before they take root. This morning, we are going to slow down and take them as seriously as He does.

## SIX DEEDS GOD HATES

1. Haughty eyes — The seed of pride often begins as a subtle comparison that whispers, “I am above you.”
  - Left unchecked, it hardens into a look that looks down on others and denies God’s authority.
  - When pride fills the eyes, it blinds the heart to God.
  - Because God loves humility, He hates haughty eyes.
2. A lying tongue — Deceit begins with a small bend of the truth but quickly grows wide.

- Lies become the tongue's common language, used to control and wound.
  - Because God loves truth, He hates a lying tongue.
3. Hands that shed innocent blood — Most violence begins long before a weapon is raised.
- It starts with treating another's life, dignity, and worth as if they don't matter.
  - The heart kills long before the weapon.
  - That disregard, if left to harden, grows into actions that harm and destroy the innocent and vulnerable.

Psalm 82 says it clearly and directly:

*Psalm 82:3–4*

*Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. 4 Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

- Because God loves life, He hates hands that shed innocent blood.
4. A heart that devises wicked plans — The heart is the command center of life.
- What grows here determines what moves the eyes, tongue, hands, feet, and voice.
  - Sin takes root here long before it is visible through loosed desires of paybacks, selfish gain, sinful pleasure.
  - Left unguarded, those thoughts root and mature into carefully plotted action.

*Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

- Because God loves righteousness, He hates a heart that devises wicked plans.
5. Feet that run rapidly to evil — Eagerness without conscience often begins as curiosity...just to "see" or "try."
- Soon the appetite is set on what will never satisfy, turning the heart away from the only One who can.
  - Ungodly curiosity quickly instructs the feet to sprint toward whatever is corrupt and dark.
  - Because God loves holiness, He hates feet that run rapidly to evil.
6. A false witness who utters lies — Slander often starts as "concerns" or "just observations."
- But when our words are meant to damage a name or distort the truth, God sees more than an opinion.
  - He sees it for what is: an attack on His justice and truth.
  - Because God loves justice, He hates a false witness who breathes out lies.

But there is one more.

As we move to the seventh and final offense to the LORD, Solomon does something that makes us stop and listen.

The Seventh Deed that is an Abomination is...

***Proverbs 6:16***

***There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him***

He shifts from saying, “The LORD hates” to calling it an abomination, a word that speaks of what is most offensive to Him, most opposed to His holiness, and most destructive to His people. And the climax may surprise you.

7. One who spreads strife among brothers — Of all the deeds God could have placed last, He chose this: the destruction of the unity and fellowship among His people. On this side of the cross, it is deeply grievous to the LORD to see one who has received His grace and forgiveness refuse to extend it to another.
  - Colossians reminds us that Christ is the head of His body, His bride, His Church.
  - When even one member ignites division, the whole body suffers, and the name of Christ is dishonored.
  - God calls it an abomination because it strikes at the very heart of His delight: the oneness of His people. It distorts His character before a watching world and wounds the very ones He loves.
  - Unity is not optional. Because God loves unity, He hates when one spreads strife among brothers.

But God’s love doesn’t stand still; it moves to protect what He treasures. Even creation gives us glimpses of this protective love, leading us to Step 2.

Step 2 — God’s love delights in and protects what reflects His holiness.

If you’ve ever seen a mother bear with her cubs, you know there is no separating her love from her protection. She delights in her young by feeding them, teaching them, guiding them. But cross a line, and you will see her other side. She will plant herself between her cubs and danger with a ferocity that stops even the strongest adversary.

The LORD’s seriousness against a rebellious people is clearly heard in Hosea 13:8.

***Hosea 13:8***

***“I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs...”***

God Himself used this image in Hosea, comparing His rising judgment to a rebellious people to a bear robbed of her cubs. His love is never passive. He cannot stand by while what He treasures is threatened. That delight is not just affection; it is a commitment to defend.

Or picture God's tender-yet-strong care for Israel in the wilderness by looking at an eagle in her nest. Scripture gives us that picture in Deuteronomy 32:11:

*Deuteronomy 32:11*

*"Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions..."*

God builds, provides, and protects. Those same wings that cover His young with care are strong enough to bear them up and shield them from danger. The nurture and the defense are not two different loves; they are one love, expressed in two ways. That is how God's love works. He delights in what reflects His holiness:

- truth that cannot lie,
- justice that cannot be corrupted,
- purity untouched by sin,
- peace that cannot be shaken,
- humility that bends to serve, and
- unity that cannot be broken.

And His delight is never passive; it moves to protect, to stand between what He loves and what would destroy it.

If creation gives us glimpses of His protective love, the cross shows us its fullest expression. The Son of God planted Himself between us and the full force of sin's judgment. At Calvary, His eternal plan to remove sin's threat and bring it to its final end was accomplished once for all.

Conclusion — Because God loves, He hates what destroys what He loves.

The God who "so loved the world that He gave His only Son," gave Him to step into the path of every deed He hates.

Look at Proverbs 6:16–19 through the lens of Calvary:

1. Haughty eyes looked down upon Him and mocked.
2. A lying tongue twisted His words to condemn Him.
3. Hands that shed innocent blood nailed Him to the cross.
4. A heart that devised wicked plans plotted His death.
5. Feet that ran to evil rushed to arrest Him.
6. False witnesses convicted Him.
7. One who spread strife turned the crowd to cry, "Crucify Him!"

Every deed God hates was aimed at Jesus. And instead of God's wrath falling on those who committed them, the Father placed it all on His Son. The cross is where God's wrath and God's love met perfectly: wrath toward sin, love toward humanity. At Calvary, God's justice was satisfied in Christ's death and grace poured out on all who would believe.

Jesus became the target of what God hates so that we could become the recipient of what God loves. He paid the price of sin with His life so that we could be rescued, forgiven, and brought near to Him forever.

Present yourself to God. If you belong to Christ, the eyes, hands, heart, and feet that once served sin no longer belong to it. They are no longer instruments of what God hates; they have been redeemed to serve what He loves. This is what grace does: it doesn't just forgive, it reclaims your whole life for righteousness.

*Romans 6:12–13*

*Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.*

So let me ask you plainly:

- Some here have spoken words that have wounded Christ's body.
- Some have let pride slip into comparisons and looking down on others.
- Some have grown too comfortable speaking lies.
- Some have hearts hardening because they remain in sin.
- Some are running from God into darker and darker places.

If the Spirit has brought something to mind, that is His mercy. Don't defend it. Don't delay. Bring it into the light, lay it down at the cross, and present yourself again to God as an instrument for righteousness.

But I cannot close without also speaking to those who have not yet come to Christ. For the unbeliever: The truth is, apart from Christ, you are still carrying the weight of what God hates, and you cannot set yourself free. But Jesus has already taken that weight on Himself at the cross.

Today, you don't have to stay in guilt, fear, or separation. You can turn to Him in repentance and faith. You can ask Him to forgive your sin, make you new, and bring you into the life and love that only He can give.

Hear the good news that has been echoing through this whole message. God has already spoken His heart to you in His Word:

*John 3:16*

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*