

# “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 8”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website ([churchofgodbigandy.com](http://churchofgodbigandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 28, 2026.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a multiple-part series. The initial plan was a seven-part series. On Feb. 18, I announced the series expanding into eight parts, and, on Feb. 25, I announced the series expanding into nine parts. Therefore, the title of the presentation last Wednesday was “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 8.”

While Proverbs 6:16-19 mentions seven characteristics that the Lord “hates,” the plan was to mention both the negative characteristics (and the contrasting positive characteristics) in seven separate presentations.

What changed? I decided to spend extra time on the seventh characteristic that God hates—that being “sowing discord.” So I changed the plan to spend three studies on the seventh characteristic.

- In the Feb. 18 study, I focused solely on “sowing discord.”
- In the Feb. 25 study, I began a discussion on “sowing peace and unity”—talking about how the Father and Son sow peace and unity.
- In the March 4 study, I plan to continue a discussion about “sowing peace and unity”—talking about how believers can sow peace and unity.

## **Not always peace**

At the beginning of the Bible study, I gave a quick reminder of what the Son of God said about His occasional approach to sowing peace.

- Matthew 10:34—Christ said: “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”
- Matthew 10:35—Christ said: “For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.’ ”
- Matthew 10:36—Christ said: “A man’s enemies will be those of his own household.”

While Bible students understand this lesson by the Son of God, they also understand the other scriptures that discuss how the Father and Son promote peace and unity.

## Author of peace and unity

From my point of view, our Heavenly Father is the author of peace and unity. His love is the foundation of peace and unity. What verses would you use to introduce the concept about God's love? (There is no "right" answer to that question.)

I chose 1 John 4:19.

- 1 John 4:19—"We love Him because He first loved us."
- Genesis 1:26—Then God said: "Let Us make man in our image, according to Our likeness. Let them have dominion . . . over all of the earth."
- Genesis 1:27—"So God created man in His own image. In the image of God, He created him. Male and female, He created them."
- Genesis 1:31—"God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good."

## Father sent the Son

The Father sent the Son to promote peace and unity.

- John 3:16—"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- John 14:6—The Son of God said: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

## Conviction and compassion

How did the Son of God show peace and unity among the brethren? He exhibited conviction and compassion.

Consider how the two great commandments can be described as conviction and compassion.

- Mark 12:30—Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

That is conviction.

- Mark 12:31—Love your neighbor as yourself.

That is compassion.

## Son loves the Father

There are many verses that show how much the Son loves the Father.

- John 5:19—The Son does what He sees the Father do.
- John 5:20—The Father loves the Son and revealed what He wanted the Son to do.

- John 5:21—The Son can raise the dead and give life.
- John 5:22—The Father has committed all judgment to the Son.
- John 5:27—The Father has given the Son authority to execute judgment.
- John 5:30—The Son acknowledged that He follows what He heard from the Father.
- John 6:38—The Son acknowledged that He seeks to do the will of the Father.

### **Son loves Himself**

The Son of God said that people are expected to love themselves.

Some people confuse loving yourself with the unseemly trait of narcissism. Narcissism is defined as: "excessive interest in or admiration of oneself and one's physical appearance."

According to webmd.com, Martha Anne Tudor wrote: "Narcissism is extreme self-involvement to the point where a person ignores the needs of those around them. While anyone may have narcissistic behavior once in a while, true narcissists often disregard others or their feelings. They don't understand the effect their behavior has on other people. It's important to note that narcissism can be a trait, but it can also be a part of a larger personality disorder. Not every narcissist has narcissistic personality disorder (NPD)."

The Son of God taught that the children of God should love their neighbor as they love themselves.

Scriptures shows me that He loved Himself.

- Matthew 26:37-38—The Son of God felt sorrow and stress.
- Matthew 26:39—"If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me."

### **Son truly loves others**

Scripture shows me that He loved His neighbor as He loved Himself.

- Matthew 26:42—"If this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."
- Luke 19:41-44—Christ wept over Jerusalem.
- Romans 5:6—Christ died for the ungodly.
- Romans 5:8—Christ died for people, while we were yet sinners.
- Ephesians 2:13-18—The blood of Christ brought Jews and gentiles into one—thus making peace.

Notice four categories of people that Paul described.

He said: (1) The Jewish people; (2) those who are under the law; (3) those who are without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ); (4) and those who are weak.

- Philippians 2:3—Esteem others better than yourself.
- Philippians 2:4—Look after the interests of others.
- Philippians 2:5-8—Christ humbled Himself by taking on the form of a man and being obedient to the point of death.