

Father's Expectations— Proverbs 6:16–19

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I have been talking to my friends about our Heavenly Father's expectations for us—because He is a God of mercy.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread (Thursday, April 9), I gave a Bible study titled "What Are the Father's Expectations?" The purpose of the presentation was twofold.

- I wanted to remind friends that a God of grace has expectations for His children.
- I wanted to remind friends that the Bible contains many, many examples of the Father's expectations.

Let's notice a few of those expectations by looking at Proverbs 6:16-19.

Proverbs 6:16-19—"These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren."

Although the text describes seven characteristics that God hates, we can also recognize seven characteristics that God loves. Let's look at both in this article.

Characteristics God hates

When a Bible student notices the seven characteristics that God hates in Proverbs 6:16-19, he is quick to see how the adversary known as Satan the devil reflects those negative characteristics.

- Proud look

Matthew 4:8-9—The devil told the Son of God to fall down and worship him.

2 Corinthians 11:14—The devil transformed himself into an angel of light.

- Lying tongue

John 8:44—The devil is the father of lies.

- Hands that shed innocent blood

John 13:27—The devil entered into Judas to betray the Son of God.

- Heart that devises wicked plans

Job 2:5—The devil devised the plans that hurt Job (also *Job 1:11*).

- Feet that are swift to run to evil

1 Peter 5:8—The devil seeks whom he may devour.

- A false witness who speaks lies

Revelation 12:10—The devil is the accuser of the brethren.

- Sowing discord

Genesis 3:1—The serpent was subtle.

Revelation 12:12—The devil has tremendous wrath.

Characteristics God loves

When a Bible student recognizes the seven characteristics that God loves from Proverbs 6:16-19, he is quick to see how the Son of God reflects those positive characteristics.

- Humble outlook

Matthew 20:25-28—The Son of God came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Philippians 2:5-8—The Son of God humbled Himself and became obedient to the death of the cross.

- Truthful tongue

John 8:45-46—The Son of God told the truth, even when it made people mad at Him.

- Hands to help the guilty

Luke 23:34—The Son of God prayed for the guilty people who mistreated Him.

Romans 5:6-8—The Son of God died for the ungodly, while we were yet sinners.

- Caring heart with righteous purposes

Luke 4:18—The Son of God came to heal the brokenhearted and to give liberty to captives.

- Feet that are swift to edification

Luke 19:41-46—The Son of God displayed both tenderness and firmness.

- A true witness

John 8:28—The Son of God taught the things the Father taught Him.

- Sowing peace and unity

Ephesians 2:12-17—The Son of God brought peace and reconciliation toward God and toward mankind.