

“Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 7”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a seven-part series. The title of the presentation was “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 7.”

For the past seven weeks, I have been advertising this series as having seven parts—to coincide with the seven traits listed in Proverbs 6:16-19. It has been challenging to limit my material to talking about the negative characteristics (as well as the contrasting positive characteristics) in seven separate presentations about those seven verses.

Last Wednesday, I decided to expand to an eighth presentation. Therefore, the Wednesday-night presentation included only the seventh characteristic that God hates—that being “sowing discord.”

My next presentation in the series will talk about the seventh characteristic that God loves—that being “sowing peace and unity.”

What is discord?

According to *Strong's Concordance*, the Hebrew word for discord (*madon*) means “dissension, quarrel, strife and contention.” Notice a few examples.

- Proverbs 6:14—A wicked person (verse 12) has perversity in his heart. He devises evil continually. He sows “discord.”
- Proverbs 6:19—The seventh trait refers to one who sows “discord” among brethren.
- Proverbs 10:12—Hatred stirs up “strife,” and love covers all sins.
- Proverbs 15:18—A wrathful man stirs up “strife.”
- Proverbs 16:28—A perverse man sows “strife,” and a whisperer separates the best of friends.
- Proverbs 17:14—The beginning of “strife” is like releasing water. Therefore, stop contention before a quarrel starts.
- Proverbs 26:20—Where there is no wood, the fire goes out. And, where there is no talebearer, “strife” ceases.

- Proverbs 26:21—As charcoal is to burning coals and as wood is to fire, so is a “contentious” man to kindle “strife.”
- Proverbs 28:25—He who is of a proud heart stirs up “strife.”
- Proverbs 29:22—An angry man stirs up “strife.”

Not always peace

Here are two foundational concepts.

First—there are many scriptures that show the Father and Son bringing peace. Second—however, the Father and Son sometimes do not bring peace, but a sword.

- Isaiah 45:7—The Lord said: “I make peace and create calamity.”

Notice what the Son of God said in Matthew 10:34-39.

- 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.”
- Matthew 10:37—Christ said: “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”
- Matthew 10:38—Christ said: “And he who does not take up his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”
- Matthew 10:39—Christ said: “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life (for My sake) will find it.”

Now, let’s look at some of the people that the Father and Son use to cause discord.

Satan causes discord

- Job 1:12—When God initiated the first trial for Job, He approved Satan’s details and set up limitations.
- Job 2:6—When God initiated the second trial for Job, He approved Satan’s new details and set up limitations.
- 2 Corinthians 4:2-4—The devil uses craftiness and deceit to blind individuals from the gospel.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:3—The serpent deceived Eve with his craftiness to lead people away from the simplicity of Christ.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:4—Some preach another Jesus, a different spirit and a different gospel.

Civil leaders cause discord

■ Matthew 20:25—Many civil leaders lord it over people and exercise great authority over them.

■ Luke 23:1-16—The Son of God had to deal with Pilate and Herod.

Leaders in religious systems cause discord

■ Matthew 16:21—Christ began telling His disciples that He must “suffer many things from the elders, chief priests and scribes.”

■ Luke 11:53-54—Luke wrote: “The scribes and Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently and to cross-examine Him about many things—lying in wait for Him and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.”

■ Luke 20:20—Luke wrote: “They [chief priests and scribes, mentioned in verse 19] watched Him and sent spies (who pretended to be righteous) that they might seize on His words—in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.”

■ Matthew 23:4—Christ said: “They [scribes and Pharisees] bind heavy burdens (hard to bear) and lay them on men’s shoulders, but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”

■ Matthew 23:6-10—Christ said that the leaders wanted the best seats and the fancy titles.

■ Matthew 26:59—The chief priests, elders and all the council sought false testimony against Christ to put Him to death.

People claiming to be religious cause discord

■ Acts 8:9-19—Simon previously practiced sorcery (in verses 9-11), was baptized (in verse 13) and he offered money to buy power (verses 18-19).

■ Acts 13:6-10—A sorcerer and false prophet (in verse 6) sought to turn the proconsul away from the faith (in verse 8) and was corrected by Paul (in verses 9-10).

■ 3 John 9-10—Diotrephes (who loved the preeminence) did not receive people like John, prated about with malicious words, did not receive the brethren and put them out of the church.

■ 3 John 12—On the other hand, Demetrius had a good reputation.