



August 6, 2006

What God Hates Pt 2

In the list of things that God hates, Solomon includes ***“hands that shed innocent blood...”*** (Prov 6.17). The Bible tells us many things about those who were willing to suppress truth and goodness by killing those who spoke what was right. There are other ways to shed innocent blood, however, and we have all seen examples of those who have sacrificed the reputations and credibility of others for the sake of their own interests. In the same verse Solomon includes the ***“proud look”*** and ***“lying tongue”*** which go hand in hand with this. Over the years we have seen individuals destroyed by the deception of others. In the church this results in much conflict when brothers cannot, or will not submit to the authority of God. In the first century there were those who sought to discredit those who taught the word. False teachers brought doubt on the work of Paul which led him to offer a defense of his apostleship. Paul stated to these individuals, ***“For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.”*** (2 Cor 11.5). In our daily lives we see those who will seek to elevate themselves at the expense of others. Even the disciples were not immune to this weakness. ***“And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.”*** (Luke 22.24). Christ responded to this stating, ***“The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.”*** (Luke 22.25-26). This problem emerged in the church at Corinth as they encountered problems that resulted in contentions over many things. Paul told the Corinthians, ***“Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?”*** (1 Cor 6.7). The same thinking had also risen in regard to spiritual gifts. Paul pointed out the fallacy of this and reminded them of the proper attitude they should have in their service to God. ***“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”*** (1 Cor 12.12). Such things led to strife which robbed them of being acceptable to God. Paul warned the Galatians, ***“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”*** (Gal 5.15). This violated the spirit of Christ which was to be in them. Paul, in his discussion of love, stated, ***“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil.”*** (1 Cor 13.4-5). Envy and pride lead to anger and hatred. When this occurs among the Lord’s people it destroys the unity of the spirit that is to be practiced and which is necessary for health and growth in the body. Paul told the Romans, ***“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...”*** (Rom 12.10). Christ demonstrated this love and concern for all mankind in his sacrifice of his life. Paul states, ***“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”*** (Phil 2.3). Pride may lead one to seek damage of another for the sake of justifying oneself. James states, ***“Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.”*** (Jas 5.9). We should seek and pursue good for the sake of others. Love, forgiveness and the willingness to set aside differences is pleasing to God. John states, ***“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”*** (Jas 3.18). James also states, ***“Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.”*** (Jas 4.11). This was the affliction of the Pharisees and it was that which led to the death of the savior on the cross. Innocent blood can be shed when we do not hold the spiritual wellbeing of others foremost in our thoughts and actions. Christ stated, ***“Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”*** (Matt 18.7). We must guard against harming others when we fail to exercise the proper attitudes in our teaching, work and manner of life. Will our words and deeds bring another soul closer to Christ or will we do harm to innocent blood by setting these things aside and following our own path ?

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