



August 20, 2006

What God Hates Pt 4

In the discussion of things which God hates, Solomon lists, ***“A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”*** (Prov 6.19). Reviewing this list we find that most of the things that are listed have to do with the selfishness and weakness that mankind is prone to. While each of the things listed here may be looked at separately, there is an indication that in many ways they are manifested together and all do damage to others, and our relationship with God. A false witness is one who seeks their own gain in one way or another over another person. This may involve greed or the desire to seek revenge. In whatever manner this behavior is exhibited, it demonstrates an underlying hatred and anger toward God and our fellow man. False witnesses were used by Jezebel to unlawfully kill and seize the vineyard of Naboth for her husband Ahab (1 Kings 21.1-3). Ahab’s selfish and infantile character is demonstrated in the fact that he pouted by going to bed without eating, becoming sullen and morose (1 Kng 21.4). Jezebel, an evil idolater, enlisted the aid of two false witnesses which resulted in the death of Naboth (1 Kng 21.8-14). This is the same thing that was done to Christ as false witnesses were used to substantiate the false claims of those who wished to kill him (Matt 26.60-61). This is closely related to problems that may arise in the church from time when brethren seek to gain control or power for their own ends. The result is discord among the brotherhood and will defeat the ability of a congregation to do the work that God would have us to do. Paul wrote to the Romans, ***“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”*** (Rom 16.17). Addressing problems in the Corinthian church, Paul stated, ***“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*** (1 Cor 1.10). The underlying problem for the Corinthians was that they had not become spiritual, allowing their own misconceptions and fleshly desires guide them, rather than the revelation of God. ***“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”*** (1 Cor 3.3). Many problems in the church, and in religion in general, stem from a lack of respect and adherence to God’s word and a lack of concern and love for others. One way in which we can be a “false witness” and sow discord, is to fail to speak the truth. Doctrinal compromise is a breach of this and the end result is that those who are taught error will be lost. Another way in which we fail to do this is to live in such a way that we do not practice what we find written in the scriptures. When one places their opinion in higher regard than the revealed word of God, we violate these principles. Peter tells us, ***“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God ...”*** (1 Pet 4.11). James provides an additional warning to those who would teach. ***“My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.”*** (Jas 3.1). Strife and deceit are works which are condemned before God. There are those who have the attitude that if we do not disagree (openly) and simply accept the beliefs and practices of others then we are creating “unity” among believers. Christ condemned this attitude during his day when he spoke of the religious leaders of the day. ***“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*** (Matt 15.7-9). God’s word was delivered through divine inspiration (2 Tim 3.16) and includes all that we need to know in order to be pleasing to God (2 Pet 1.3). Anything else is falsehood and is condemned.

TLC