

## Proverbs 6:16-19

**<sup>16</sup> There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: <sup>17</sup> Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, <sup>18</sup> A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, <sup>19</sup> A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.**

Is it not amazing how the author here in **Proverbs**, points out that those who spread strife among brothers or the brethren, are in the same category as those who look down on others, who habitually lie, who think nothing of hurting if not killing innocent victims, those who through premeditation plan harm, those who are quick to rush into anything that is evil and destructive, and those who intentionally stand and lie when there is a disagreement or judgment. All of these are things which the Lord our God hates! Yet, look at how many times you have witnessed people within the church spread strife through false accusations, gossip, lying and character assassinations. Consider all of the church splits which were birthed through whisperers and back room gossip sessions. Rather than expose and deal with such unruly behavior, most pastors and leaders look the other way, until the seemingly innocent chatter grows into a leviathan which destroys their ministry and reputation. This strife is not limited to only the layman, but is just as real with some who are in spiritual authority. It can be as innocent as choosing to stand with someone, because they are in your church, or possibly is a friend. It is absolutely critical that Christians and especially church leadership learn to be objective in areas of potential sin and strife. Otherwise, we can simply license poor behavior through a clouded lens. We can also be guilty of **Proverbs 17:15, He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous; both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.** If we don't pursue Truth in all things, then we can easily justify the wicked, or even condemn the righteous.

I am never surprised when I see the slander and devastating games that people play in our political process, or even within secular dealings. However, I never cease to be amazed when a Christian brother or sister partakes in such behavior, especially to another believer. The world is watching each and every person who claims to be a Christian. None of us can claim ignorance, because the Word of God holds the answers for every situation that we will meet during this lifetime. Sometimes you must dig for it, but it is there. I also believe that some people that have never been confronted about speaking out against others within the church have simply become blinded to this destructive pattern in their own lives. That is simply another reason why we must confront sin, in love. Love doesn't mean you have to sugar coat it, love means that you do it because it is the right thing to do. The Word of God talks about taking that which is done in secret or darkness, and bringing it into the light, or the open. Is it uncomfortable? Often times, yes. One thing that is true is that confronting sin will quickly reveal the heart of those involved. Look with me at **Proverbs 9:8, Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you, Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.** No one likes to be confronted, but Godly confrontation will show what is on the inside of a person, and not just the outward actions. Remember, we are clearly warned that spreading strife amongst the brethren is something that the Lord hates! I exhort you to stay as far away as possible from such behavior.