

Things God Hates

The term "hates" shows that God is greatly displeased with certain personal attitudes and behaviors. If there are things that God hates, then there are attitudes and behaviors that God loves. God is love; therefore he must then hate certain things. The opposite of love is hate. I certainly do not want God to hate any of my attitudes or behaviors. How about you?

Proverbs 6:12-19

- Haughty eyes
 - Self-important
 - Superior
 - Condescending
 - "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." - Romans 12:3 NKJV
- Lying tongue
- Hands that shed innocent blood (We murder with our hands and with our mouths)
- Heart that devises wicked schemes (We don't have to step on others to raise up ourselves)
- Feet that are quick to run to evil
 - Speaking contrary to what God has said (Numbers 13)
 - Gossip and hate speech
- False witness (deliberate perjury to injure another person)
- Stirring up dissention in the community (sows discord among brothers)

A blog entry recently said, "I feel I can barely communicate with my Christian friends anymore because they have become such argumentative, combative and attacking people."

How many debates or arguments have you won?

There is a contrasting parallel between Proverbs 6:16-19 and the Beatitudes Jesus spoke in Matthew 5.

Matthew 5:1-16

- I've been hearing much about how we are losing our rights as Christians in America. Granted, much of what is happening in our world is very frustrating to many fundamental Christ followers. Some Christians are becoming angry, combative and attacking! These are things that God hates!
 - First, some of what is happening in our world is simply signs of the times. The New Testament predicts that certain events and attitudes will be prevalent before Christ's return.
 - Second, we are seeing a demographic change in America (not a church or biblical issue). The percentage of Judeo/Christian western European descent people is shrinking in America.
 - In all issues we are called to follow Christ's teaching from the Sermon on the Mount.
- TD Jakes recently said in an interview, "The church bought into the myth that we are a Christian nation."
- The fact is that America is a democratic republic not a theocracy. A republic is designed to be an overarching system to protect our unique nuances, regardless of religion, race, or gender. Most of our disagreement then is a political one, not a

religious one. Our system of government is designed to protect all people, not to impose the beliefs of even the majority on everyone.

- The trouble we are having as Christians is that the mainstream media and society does not agree with our worldview always. So, they resort to name-calling. If one opposes same-sex marriage because of reverence to biblical text, they are called homophobic and are ostracized. This oversimplifies an extremely complex issue. Frankly, not every gay person or every church sees this issue the same way.
- We reserve the right to interpret Scripture the way we understand it, and in a manner consistent with an orthodox Christian worldview. We must remain faithful to a theological position, not a sociological one.
- The mainstream has turned; God's Word has not turned. So, we must continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Christians and theologians must continue to wrestle with applying God's eternal Word in a contemporary world.
- **Our response and attitude must reflect the Beatitudes, not the seven things that God hates.**
- The way of Christ has never been spread through means of aggression. The gospel of peace spread throughout the world by love, submission to authority and martyrdom.
- Peter cut off an ear of one of those coming to arrest Jesus on the night he was betrayed. Jesus healed the man's ear, putting it back on his head. He rebuked Peter by saying in Luke 26:52, "Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword."
- Discord and aggression affect no good end, and they bring their own destruction.
- Jesus made statements such as: "The first shall be last, the last shall be first. Whoever humbles himself like a child is the greatest in the kingdom of God. Give and it will be given to you. Forgive and you will be forgiven."
- As far as Christian rights go: we have none. Jesus said, "If anyone wants to be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."

God hates it when people sow discord. He said that peacemakers are blessed.

Things God Hates Discussion Guide

Read Proverbs 6:12-19

- ▲ How strongly does God oppose these things?
- ▲ We should love what God loves, and hate what God hates. Explain.
- ▲ Does God hate the people who do these things? How can we love people and hate certain behaviors or actions they demonstrate?
- ▲ What is the commonality of the things God hates?
- ▲ Read and discuss Romans 12:3.
- ▲ Why is lying and bearing false witness so damaging?
- ▲ What does it mean to sow discord?

Read Matthew 5:1-16

- ▲ What does it mean to be meek?
- ▲ What does it mean to be pure in heart?
- ▲ What does it mean to be a peacemaker?
- ▲ Is there any justification for ever disregarding the Beatitudes in our attitudes or behavior?