



## Discord 2 - No Growth

**There are six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that be swift to running into mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

*Proverbs 6:16-19*

**Deception** - Matthew 24:4

**Instigators** - 2 Chronicles 18:20

**Scrutiny** - Romans 16:17

**Conversation** - Ephesians 2:3

**Opinion** - Job 32:10

**Righteous** - Proverbs 16:2

**Devil** - Proverbs 16:29

In Proverbs chapter six, verses sixteen through nineteen, there are six things the Lord hates: no, there are seven together. These seven things are known as an abomination which ranges from wrongdoing to extreme dislike. Why would God start a list of the six things He hates and then adds one at the end? The seventh abomination may appear as though to indicate, "how could I forget that?" The last one may be the most dangerous out of them all: discord. The six on the list in verses sixteen through to the first part of nineteen are equally dangerous, where each can lead

to the seventh in the bottom part of verse nineteen. The word "abomination" applies to anything that greatly offends the Lord because it is grossly immoral. This attitude causes someone to look down their nose at others. In Psalms hundred and one, verse five, the Lord says, "Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart I will not endure." A prime example of someone with haughty eyes is in Luke eighteen verse eleven, where the proud Pharisee entered the temple to pray. When he saw a humble tax collector nearby, he boasted to God: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men...or even like this tax collector." He referred to his self-righteous deeds, but God rejected him.

Second, God also hates "a lying tongue." Proverbs six, verse twelve, describes those who deceive others as "wicked" and "worthless." Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, saying they had offered the total sales revenue of their property; God struck them dead in Acts five, verses one through ten. The lying tongue creates problems for others who do not know what is coming to them. The liars who prey upon innocent people who received unnecessary backlash that did nothing wrong are left to wonder what went wrong.

The third is violence against the innocent. The verse was mentioned earlier in Proverbs one sixteen in connection with evil. Violence, revenge, and anger are all bad enough in and of themselves. Especially heinous is to use violence against those who are "innocent," in the sense that they've done nothing to deserve that treatment from other people.

The fourth on the list of detestable things is an attitude that deliberately plans to do evil. Jesus identified the heart as the source of good or evil. He told His disciples, "Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander"

in Matthew fifteen verse nineteen. Unless the Lord rules a person's heart, sin rules it, and the outcome is evil conduct. God hates a heart that makes wicked plans. Also, the feet that carry out those plans. In Scripture, feet are secondhand as references to completing or enacting a plan. In this instance, the evil person is not just content to make wicked plans but eager and enthusiastic about carrying them out. John thirteen, verses twenty-seven through thirty, says when Judas is in full possession by Satan, he immediately abandons the upper room. He "hurried," in a sense, to Jesus' enemies so they could complete their murder, as in John eighteen verses three and twelve.

The sixth thing God hates is almost similar to the first with the lying tongue. The sixth abomination refers to someone who provides false testimony. In a literal sense, this would be a person who gives a deliberately wrong account in a trial or a legal claim. The original phrasing here depicts someone who "breathes lies as a false witness." If there is a meaningful difference between this statement and the one in verse seventeen, it might involve the audience of those lies. God not only hates it when we lie "to" someone to deceive, but He also hates it when we lie "about" someone to mislead others.

The last item on the list is the summary of the earlier six points." Sowing discord. "Sow" refers to farming and means to plant seeds. The person who "sows discord" uses gossip, lies, unfounded accusations, negative criticism, and backbiting to accomplish his goal. The result that "sprouts" from those actions is strife.

The word discord itself is unique in a literal sense. There are two words in one. In the first three letters, "dis" is someone who bad-mouths another individual. "Dis" is self-explanatory. Add

it to a few other words to see how bad it can be: especially for those labeled. For example, the word "respect." Add the letters "dis" becomes "disrespect." Another term is "obedience," adding the letters "dis" again becomes "disobedience." Many words that "dis" can change, making it from good to bad. It is even far worse if a person experiences that condition.

The final four letters of "discord" make up the word "cord," which means rope. The devil uses his cohorts to get sinful people to use and tie up other people's lives, particularly godly individuals with bad words and immoral activity. The term "cord" the enemy will use to pull back, pull down, squeeze out, or strangle. The devil will attempt to eliminate any good fortune that is to come a believer's way. Another form of how he seeks to steal, kill, and destroy. Discord begins with deception. Jesus warned the disciples when He sat outside the temple that they should let no one deceive them. To take care of their soul and let not anyone influence them to follow their carnal ways, deceitfully leading them in the other direction to destruction. The enemy will attempt to use people or anything to get a follower of Christ out of their peace which passeth all understanding environment and stir them into some form of conflict. To bait them into controversy or argument or to become hostile over some earthly matters that are not important to disrupt them spiritually.

Discord lurks with those who enjoy being instigators. The people that fall under this category are known as "button-pushers." The devil uses these people to create trouble for others, especially the followers of Christ. An example is, in First Samuel seventeen, verse twenty-eight, with David, the young lad encounters a battle with Israel against Goliath and the Philistines. His older brother Eliab sees him standing by

the army men regarding the issue with the giant. David's younger brother, Eliab, basically responds, "what are you doing here? Shouldn't you be with the sheep? I know why you are here, to see what is going on."

The reply in the following verse from David is, "what have I now done? Is there not a cause?" The fact David's eldest brother approaches in that manner attempts to create some form of confrontation. However, David, being the younger, did not retaliate as expected. God had a mission for him which involved helping the Israelites conquer Goliath, the giant.

However, if David gave into the temptation of the enemy attempting to use his eldest brother Eliab to upset him, it would probably be a different situation for David and the Israelites against the Philistines. God was in control, and so was David, which led him to carry out God's plan. The enemy will use this tactic to aggravate believers who endeavor to follow God's way. Instigators are sneaky, and we'll never know when they will come into a situation uninvited.

Discord could come from those who care about you. Abraham had his share of family issues with Sarah and her handmaid Hagar. In Genesis chapter sixteen, Sarai, her name at the time, could not have children. The idea she gives Abram, his name at the time, is to go and have a child with Hagar, Sarai's handmaid. The mistress has the child, and Sarai despises her.

In verse five of the same chapter, Sarai admits to Abraham that she did wrong. However, Hagar flees from Sarai. The fact that Sarai barely pays attention to her handmaid is no fault on the part of Hagar. Hagar was a female servant of Sarai who served her in whatever situation presented itself for her to contribute. Yet, she had to depart with Ishmael from Abram and Sarai.

Discord, at times, comes in the form of silent conflict. Nothing verbal takes place to create tension or argument between you and others. Particularly family, when the silent treatment is going on, and no one is communicating, leaving you to wonder what is wrong. These situations can be like a chess match: you make a move by saying something could be a disaster. However, you leave and go with the flow, which could be worse than it is now.

Discord, at times, can occur through overhearing conversation. Rebekah loved Jacob while Isaac loved Esau, as stated in Genesis verse twenty-five, verse eight. However, in chapter twenty-seven, verse five, Rebekah, the mother of both Jacob and Esau, hears what Isaac said to Esau about making something to receive the blessing. She helps to prepare what Esau intends to do to deceive Isaac: so Jacob to get that gift instead. Whether Esau was less godly than Jacob, the blessing still is for the eldest one. Discord, such as this example, can eventually cause the family to separate themselves from each other. The problem of deceiving someone out of what rightfully belongs to them can be disturbing. Often there is no replacement for the loss.

Once-in-a-chance opportunity does not come around much. Therefore, discord can be a long feud with a situation such as Esau and Jacob.

Discord could start in the form of an opinion. In First Samuel, chapter eighteen, verses six through seven, David came back from the slaughter of the Philistines, and the women came out from all cities of Israel to celebrate. The ladies were singing and dancing to meet King Saul with joy and instruments of music. They converse with one another with chants saying, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousand." The gesture made Saul very wroth and watched David ever since.

The combination of opinions from someone in comparison to another can be disturbing and emotionally harmful. If you are standing in line waiting for service and someone behind you says, "excuse me, I like your outfit. However, the person ahead will look better than you in it." The first thing that would probably come to mind is, who cares. Second, it would be an embarrassing moment, and maybe experience a bit of anger, jealousy, and feelings of rejection like Saul did with David.

Discord can occur when people believe that whatever they say and do is always right and everyone else is wrong. The behavior can be a problem. A person like that finds it difficult to see the truth in anyone or anything else. The "I'm right, your wrong" attitude is no different than a proud person who is unable to see the side of others but only themselves.

In Exodus, the new Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, thought he was right with all his taskmasters and the Israelites under his rule that he had no one to answer to but others to him. Pharaoh believed he was a god. Each time Moses went to him to let his people go, The king did not listen and sometimes did not say anything. However, Pharaoh got to find out how weak he was. God defeated His confidence in "man-made" powers, which is sorcery.

Discord comes from the devil. The enemy will attempt to create disharmony for believers or anyone that desires to live righteously, which is right doing or doing good. The devil detests such behavior because it's God's way of living which is the opposite of what the devil plans to accomplish. Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and the Israelites in the wilderness are examples of disruption by the enemy. In both situations, the start was good, only to succumb to temptation, which led to losing out. Discord is the seventh abomination, almost forgotten but the last. Why? The capability of causing havoc and

escalating a negative situation fast. That explains why there are six things the Lord hates, and the seventh is discord because the others lead to the last one, which only God can save and protect us from if He becomes our Lord.