

Hopewell ARP Midweek Sermon
Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Proverbs 6:12–19

¹² A worthless person, a wicked man,
Walks with a perverse mouth;
¹³ He winks with his eyes,
He shuffles his feet,
He points with his fingers;
¹⁴ Perversity is in his heart,
He devises evil continually,
He sows discord.
¹⁵ Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly;
Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.
¹⁶ These six things the Lord hates,
Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
¹⁷ A proud look,
A lying tongue,
Hands that shed innocent blood,
¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that are swift in running to evil,
¹⁹ A false witness who speaks lies,
And one who sows discord among brethren.

How to Be a Man That God Hates

Main idea: God hates the manipulative busy body who sows strife.

Introduction: Not all activity is diligence. There is such a thing as a useless Adam... one who does not answer God's design for him but is a distortion of it.

1. The Useless Adam

not busy but busybody (cf. 2Th 3:11, 1Tim 5:13)

not man but manipulator

1. Anatomy of a manipulator: mouth (v12b), eyes (v13a), feet (v13b), fingers (v13c), heart (v14a).
2. Nature of a manipulator: what he devises is evil (v14b, whether he knows it or not)
3. Fruit of a manipulator: strife (v14c).
4. End of a manipulator: calamity. Sudden. Catastrophic. Calamity.

2. God Hates Them

1. With complete, divine hatred (six, and seven). Love for His own glory demands hatred against the despising of the glory, and there is nothing more blasphemous than an image-defaced image-bearer.
2. Of the complete man: eyes, tongue, hands, heart, feet... but ultimately the man as a whole (v19).
3. For the love of His church (“brethren,” in v19; cf. 1Cor 3:9–17). He treasures His church not merely on account of their creation, but their redemption.

Conclusion: beware of being the manipulator; rather, be diligent in what is good, avoiding scheming, and living a quiet life.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Proverbs 6 verses 12-19. These are God's words. A worthless person. A wicked man. Walks with a perverse mouth. He Winks with his eyes. He shuffles his feet. He points with his fingers. Perversity is in his heart.

He devises evil continually He? Discord. Therefore, his Calamity shall come suddenly Suddenly, he shall be broken. Without remedy. These six things, Yahweh hates. Yes. Seven are an Abomination to him. A proud look. A lying tongue. Hands. That said, innocent blood. A. That devises Wicked plans. That are Swift and running to evil.

A false witness who speaks lies and Who sows Discord? Among Brethren. Hey, man, that sentence this reading of God's inspired and an errant word We heard last week, the necessity of being diligent. That we would be humbled enough to consider the ant and grateful to God. Both for those whom he sets over us, to help us be diligent from the outside and for the spirit, applying his word to us, by his grace, making us Self-Disciplined and diligent from within But there's an important connection between verses.

6 through 11 now and verses 12 through 19. And that is that not all activity is diligence. Not all activity. Is diligence what a contrast there is Between the one who is. Uh, lying there and slumbering. A little sleep, a little Slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.

Uh, what a great contrast between the inactivity of that, man, and You might say hyperactivity. Of the one in verses 11 through 14. Walking winking. Shuffling pointing devising continually. Sewing and planting not out doing the planting work that Would need to be done and an agrarian and agricultural. Context like that into which This was written.

But, planting something much worse. Sewing Discord. Sewing Strife, contention. Relational. Friction. Leaving little seedlings of strife. Behind him. And that, of course, Puts him within the crosshairs of the hatred of God. Which is how we go from. Verse 14. He sows Discord and so he's leaving these seedlings of strife behind him.

And into verses 15 through, 19. Where the list of the seven things? That Yahweh hates climaxes with The one who sows Discord among Brethren. So, Uh, the Who sells Discord among Brethren being one, that God hates. And so, Diligence True diligence is a remedy that God has provided for not making yourself into the sword of guy that God especially Hates.

Or. This sort of gal. Not all activity. Is diligence. What we find then is that there is such a thing as a useless. Atom is this Appear to me. Yes. Thank you.

When you take those out. Don't put them on the charger. They've probably lost the ability to retain it. Thank you. There is such a thing then, as a useless, Adam this Isn't immediately apparent. The way verse 12 is translated for us, a worthless person is literally an atom of Belial.

Uh, an atom of uselessness. There are other words for man more. Common word for man, is a word that means Person. And A male person, specifically. Or generally. Although, in the plural, it can be used for male and female together. Uh, but this word Adam, you can hear Uh, the name Adam in it.

And it refers to humanity. And it's very intentional here, because This atom that's being described in verses 12 through 14 is one who is not fulfilling God's design for him. He is not Imaging. God. He is exactly the opposite of the image of God. He is not laboring in the creation and serving God and neighbor.

He is diligent in something else. He is a distortion. This is the Idea behind the word perverse in verse 12 and perverse in verse 14. Now because of the sort of sin to which our culture is addicted, we are accustomed to hearing the word perverse, especially in In that horrible, seventh commandment Violating context but the word perverse means crooked from or distorted from its original design.

It's god-given. God intended purpose. And that of course is why we would call anything other than lifelong marriage between one, man, and one woman. Until death. Do they part a perversion? But here the perversion is more broad. It is the Distortion of the man himself. Life, his conduct is not answering or according to God's design for him.

It is a distortion of God's design for him. Now this connection Uh, between The. Laziness on the one hand being not busy and being a busy body. On the other hand is we're about to see in verses 12 through 14. It was one that we're familiar with because the New Testament also makes this connection So, If you have a copy of the word of God, you may Wish to turn with me to 2nd Thessalonians 3 and then just stay there because we'll flip a page or two.

And look also at first Timothy 5 Uh, second Thessalonians 3 beginning in verse 10. For even when we were with you, we commanded you. This, if anyone will not work, neither, shall he eat? We hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner. Not working at all.

But our busy bodies. Now, those who are such We command and exhort through our Lord, Jesus Christ that they work in quietness. And, Their. But as for you Brethren, do not grow weary in doing good. And so, Instead of being diligent in their work. Working with their hands doing what God has given them to do.

They not only are lazy and idle. But as you Uh, as you may have. Heard the common sayings. Idle Hands Are The Devil's play thing. Well, there is a more specific scripture application in all three of these places and that is idle Hands turn the mouth. Into the Devil's plaything.

So first, Timothy 5, And this again is Uh, widows who are young enough to do, the good work of a wife and a mother. And beginning in verse, 11. But refused the younger widows for when they had begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith and besides they learn to be idle Wandering about from house to house and not only idle, but also gossips and busy bodies.

Saying things. Which they ought not now we see that same connection here. Uh, in the useless. Adam And the useless man that Man of balaam in Proverbs chapter 6. He walks with a distorted mouth. A perverse mouth. And he is. Uh, not busy, but a busy body. Or to play on the word Adam or the name, Adam.

He is not a man. But a manipulator. Those words are not related except that. Uh they share that beginning in common, but he is not a man but a manipulator and this you see in the Cleverly Illustrated vividly Illustrated. Caricature in verse 13. He Winks with his eyes. He shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers.

Now children. Not having a lot of very careful Bible instruction but by God's mercy being a little boy who read his Bible and a little boy who was often instructed in many things. I would read Proverbs 6 13 and think that there was something sinful about winking. And so I'd be very careful not to wink unless I was being mischievous and wicked and indulging.

The desire in my heart to do what was wrong. Um, Which of course you must never do. But if somebody else were to wink, I thought, oh, they must be Quite an evil person. Look at them winking. And I also tore through shoes at an alarming rate. And was often being told not to shuffle my feet.

But to pick my feet up and put them down and I thought that that had something to do with Proverbs 6 13. Uh, and As you have probably been taught. It is unkind or inappropriate to point. So, also, I had been taught that And so, I didn't understand at all that.

Proverbs 6 13 isn't talking about any of those things. It's describing. As it were from a distance, the man with the distorted mouth. And you can see by his Style of interaction that he is not so much communicating. He? Not serving with his mouth, he's manipulating it's the sort of man who always has an agenda.

Always has an angle who's trying to use his conversation as a way of of Getting the other person to do something and maybe even As the best manipulators do getting the other person to do something while While hopefully getting the other person to think it was their idea to do it.

Now, we are very aware. Uh much more aware I think. Or maybe I just wasn't paying attention as a child of manipulators now than when I was a child, I hear people. Toss around the terms. Narcissist and gaslighter. And, Those kinds of things, someone who is trying to make your relationship, your conversation, be about them, or bend you to their will, or someone who tries to Use the conversation to change your picture of reality, especially whatever has happened in the past.

Those kind of manipulations And many people and not without good good, cause are watching out for manipulators, you should watch out for a manipulator especially Not just other people who manipulate you but the devil who is a master manipulator who at first the woman being deceived actually thought she was doing good when she took of the fruit and ate and gave some To her husband.

But the worst manipulator of all, of course. Is our own sin. Our own sinful desire, our own remaining fleshliness And while we ought to watch out for those who are trying to manipulate us, this passage is teaching us to watch out for something much more Dreadful. That we would be those who manipulate others.

Because that's the sort of person. That God hates. Just like you should watch out for those who are proud. And those who lie, And bear false witness. Those who are violent. He had it as much worse. To be proud. Or to be the liar. Or to be the false witness.

Or to be violent. Now the useless atom here is described by his Anatomy, every part of who he is, is working on this. It reminds us of exactly what Romans 6 in the previous series taught us not to do. Uh, Romans 6 said don't offer the members of your bodies as slaves to sin, don't offer your members a slaves to sin, offer your members, every part of who you are as a slave to God for righteousness.

And so an upright, man, a straight man, walks with a straight mouth, his mouth is made for blessing, God, and his mouth is made for edifying. His brother, and serving, and blessing, and edifying, his neighbor. But, Manipulator here. Useless Adam. He doesn't use his mouth for the praise of God and for the edification of others.

But, He his mouth. Crooked distorted perverse. Our eyes, our eyes to be used. For beholding, God, and looking to him. And And, Observing his creation, his Providence. With the scriptures as it were frontlets between our eyes shaping. How we think about everything Uh, when we look upon others to look upon them with the fruits of love, Whether pity or compassion, or grief or affection or Pleasure.

But here the eye is being used as a tool for this manipulation, the winking feet not being employed in the service of God, But, Feet being shuffled here. As it were. Employed for Uh, signaling or Some sort of mannerism. To affect the person that he's talking to. The fingers.

The fingers not being used for the good work that God has given us to do with our hands. But again employed as an instrument for manipulation And, This is an important. Part of being Wicked. Obviously, the manipulative man is not the only Sort of man that That God hates the list of seven could be.

Expanded greatly in verses 17. Through 19, the seven here are given for communicating completeness by the number seven. But, This particular sinfulness this particular. Perversion or corruption of what we are supposed to be. Like, again, is one that must be watched against, especially in marriage. If you permit yourself.

Uh, to go unchecked in the Habit of using speech using conversation using interaction in a manipulative sort of way. You will bring that into your marriage. And you also strife with the wife of your youth, rather than rejoicing with the wife of your youth, Or you will indulge that which is part of the curse having your desire to control your husband.

Has God warned. The woman, her desire would be for her husband, but he would Master her. And using the same exact verbal construction as a few verses later when he told Kane that sins desire was for him, not to show him affection, not to live in fellowship with him, but to control him and he must dominate it.

He must rule over it. Not Uh, not leadership and headship those things did not come from the fall. Um, leadership and headship and Is part of the design in Genesis 2 already? But a woman wanting to control her husband. To manipulate him. That is a consequence. Of the And so

there's still as this early part of Proverbs is especially in the context of the formation of character for marriage and warning against the corruption.

Of marriage, even The same is in play or the same as in the background in the context and he's going to return again to guarding the purity of marriage. In next week's portion. Lord willing. So this is the anatomy of the manipulator. Now, why is it? That has mouth eyes feet and fingers.

Are all coordinated in the same sort of sin. It. Because, Uh, his heart is full of that sin. So the text moves from the anatomy of the manipulator mouth eyes feet fingers. Uh, to heart and devising verse 14. Perversity is in his heart, so his heart is Twisted. His heart is crooked.

This is the big problem with us. When you are, When you get caught by Daddy or mommy, sinning. And you try to come up with an explanation for your sin and you might shrug and And, Given your best attempt at an innocent look or I don't know how the chocolate got all over my face and my hands must have been a run, a drive-by chocolating, uh that I got attacked with chocolate you it wouldn't be as silly and crazy as that, but Your excuses and explanations.

Thank God for making. You begin as less than an expert in such manipulations, they are just as silly and crazy, but the problem isn't just that you came up with things to do with your hands and face and your eyes, and maybe your feet and your posture to try to sell the idea or, or maybe you have a request that you That you don't trust dad or Mom to love you enough to do what is best for you but you think you know what is better than they do.

So you come and rather than Than making a straightforward request knowing the greatness of their love for you. And that anything that would actually be good for you. They would say yes to instead you come and you you are trying by the way, you look at them and the way you New posture, and You have done something that you hope that will impress them so that you can use that as As part of how you get them to do what you want.

Now, those things. You know, all all of those things trying to manipulate your mom or dad. Those are sinful. But the problem isn't just in the behavior. Or the look, or the mannerism, or the argument, or the the reasoning that you're using. The problem is in a heart. That desires to be in control of your mom, or your dad, or the situation to bend, everything to get what you want.

Instead of first of all, doing whatever God says to do and second of all trusting, not just that Mom and Dad love you so much and do everything. According to what they think is best for you. But that God loves you abundantly and infinitely and he always does not just what he thinks is best for you.

But he's infinitely wise and he always does what's right for you. And this is one of the reasons why we have the instruction and we have the discipline. Because the problem is in the heart, the Twisted distorted heart and so long as our hearts are distorted, whatever they devise, Is going to be wrong, we might not even see that it's wrong.

The one in verse 14 doesn't even necessarily know That all of his scheming this angle that he always has this agenda that he always has is evil. But his heart is distorted. So what do you think is going to come out of it? And yet. Praise God. The not only does he.

Bring us to Faith by his word giving us Life by his word and bring us to Faith by his word. But once he has brought us by faith into our Lord, Jesus Christ and Union with him. He also sanctifies Us by his word and makes us wise unto salvation.

And makes us words to us, the implanted word, which is able to save our souls. Lord your children. May the Lord help you to be without guile without manipulation straightforward. Trusting, God. So that you don't have to try and force the situation or any person to do what you want them to do.

Because you have been given what is right to do by God and you know That he will not just rule an overrule situations. But even if someone were to intend evil against you, Your good God. Well intend, it will have intended it for good, super intended. It for good.

And that ultimately is what as we grow, what we adults. Need to know from God as well. Do you know that? Do you know, are you confident in every relationship, in every interaction, in every circumstance, in every situation? That the perfectly wise and good and Powerful Providence of God sovereignly rules and overrules so that you don't have to.

Convince or manipulate or get anyone else to do anything? If you are instructed to persuade, if that's, if that is the role that the Lord has called you to, you can just present his word. And you could just present. What's right? And show Christ. Christ who has atoned for our sin Christ.

Uh, who is the righteousness that that we needed Christ to whom we want to be conformed? And if it's an unbeliever, And you appeal, You appeal to who God is you appeal to their danger, you appeal, to them to come to that Christ. We do not need. To manipulate.

We do not need to manipulate. Well, the fruit of the manipulator. Uh, maybe he doesn't know that his heart is distorted. Maybe he doesn't know that. He's devising evil continually, but he can look behind him. And he can see the fruit, he can see the result. He sows. Discord, he's so Strife.

He leaves behind him. These little Strife seedlings. Wherever. He goes. Well, this one who is not busy, but a busy body, not a man, but a manipulator. He has a dreadful end in verse 15. His Calamity shall come, suddenly It is uh it is not just sudden Calamity. However, it is also catastrophic suddenly he shall be broken.

Without remedy. And so if there is this danger that you or I could be this Distortion of a person instead of the diligent person being the Distortion of the person and And, When the Lord visits Upon Our our our heads, it will come almost as it were without warning suddenly, and it will come without remedy without the ability to fix it.

As is often the case. When Strife is, Uh, when Strife is sown then what a mercy from God to tell us beforehand in his word? To hold up his word before us as a mirror and say, does this look like you? Are you always going over and over in your head?

How you're going to talk to this person, to get them to do the thing that you want them to do? Are you always working an angle are? You always pursuing an agenda like that? So that the word being living and active and revealing, the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It would be a help to us a preventative, a cure before the Calamity comes. Because when the Calamity comes, it'll be without remedy. But if we lie naked and exposed to God and to whom we will give an account what a mercy of him. How merciful of him to hold up to us the mirror of his word.

So that we would be not hearers only, but doers also So, I urge you to pay attention to the internal conversation of your mind and your heart. As you think about interactions, there's nothing wrong with wanting to to speak. As kindly or as wisely choosing words. Well, But if you

find in yourself, this scheming trying to control the situation or to control the other person, Applying.

Pressure with the the way that you interact with them, run from that, run from that. Because the Lord here doesn't just give us the anatomy of the useless. Adam, and the fact that this comes from his nature and what fruit, he leaves behind and to what end? He will go.

But he tells us why the useless Adam ends up at that end. And it is, because God, Hates him. God hates him. These six things, Yahweh hates. Yes, seven are an Abomination to him. Now, as we said before, he could list many more than six or seven couldn't he, we could come up for from the scriptures.

We could come up with a much longer list. Why would he say six? But not just six. Well, the answer is because it's a number of completeness. Just as you would be. A dreadfully incomplete man, have six days you worked and did all your labor, but the seventh you did not rest in the Lord, your God, the one for whom you exist, And so seven being the number of completeness.

So we see that God hates them. Then with complete Divine hatred, Uh, not just hating these And seven but abominating these six and seven. They're exactly opposite to him. God, loves perfectly infinitely. And because he loves perfectly and infinitely. He loves his own Glory. And that which despises his glory because he loves his glory, he must he would be wicked if he didn't hate, whatever was opposed to his glory.

And then, especially when it comes to man, Men who are made created in His image in knowledge and righteousness and Holiness. You know, there's nothing more Blasphemous than all the creation. That an image defaced image Bearer. Than men not Imaging God. But being Adams of uselessness being Uh, men of uselessness.

And so there's a complete Divine hatred here and just as we had the anatomy of the manipulator in verses 13 and 14, sorry in verses 12 and 13. So we have another anatomical list here. In verse 17 and 18. So not only does God completely hate these six and seven things he hates the complete man.

Uh, haughty eyes. And its eyes here. The the word we don't have in English. Dual we have singular, which is one and plural, which is more than one In Hebrew, they have singular, which is one dual, which is two and plural, which is three or more. And here it is the Duel.

And so, The haughty eyes or the proud eyes in the first part of verse 17 are very specifically the, the two eyes of this wicked man. Uh, his lying tongue, his hands that shed innocent blood. Heart that devises Wicked plans, his feet that are Swift to run to evil.

And again the heart is mentioned already there. But those are the first five things you get this kind of anatomical list. Uh the word heart also referring just as we use it, it's often used in a similar way, the control center of the man, but then verse 19 expands to the man himself.

You may have heard it said God. Uh, hates the sin. But loves The Sinner. And we need to distinguish when we say when we speak that way. God hates the sin but he's good to the sinner. God hates the sin but he offers himself to The Sinner in Christ and it is a genuine offer.

And there are those. Centers that he hates the sin but he loves them in an electing and then and adopting and redeeming way. But God also hates The Sinner. There is a sense in which he even hates the elect in our sin eradicating destroying who we were in ourselves out of that.

Electing and redeeming adopting love to bring us into the Lord Jesus Christ. And so yes, God is good to all and he is redeemingly. Savingly Everlastingly in steadfast Covenant, love good from all eternity from within himself, outside of creation outside of time to the elect. So that whether you're talking about the love of the father in Romans 8 or the love of the Lord Jesus as we'll have in the the Hope at home tomorrow in Revelation 1 it is a love that does not have a beginning in time and so it can never have any end and so because of the greatness of God's goodness to all and the greatness of his electing redeeming adopting love to the elect.

We are overwhelmed as we should be by the greatness of the love of God. But ultimately the love of God. Is a love for himself. And for his glory, And he has determined to invest that glory and display that glory in the Redemption of those Sinners. Whom he is saving.

But we must not, therefore think. That he doesn't. The Sinner. You. And I in imitating. God should hate. Who and what we are outside of and apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. We are supposed to be killing it. God does not. Weep over hell.

Verse 19. He hates and abominates. The false witness who speaks lies. And the one who sows Discord who sows Strife. Among the Brethren. Especially among Brethren. This is something for which we have. A parallel in First Corinthians. Uh, not 13, I don't know. Type of, Uh, made it into your outline as well.

But First Corinthians, 3 First Corinthians 3. Verses 9 through 17. We are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God, which was given to me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation and another Builds on it and he goes on at length to talk about how God has made his church, especially his field, especially his building.

So that the diligence that we are called to exercise In our lives generally is especially a diligence when it comes to his church. A diligence for the building up. Of our brothers and sisters. In Christ, diligence of evangelism, a diligence of Of discipleship and and fellowship and then especially those who are called to spiritual office a diligence Uh, in that labor as well.

But, skipping down. Well, two vers. Uh 15. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved yet. So is through fire, do you not know that you and these are plural youths? In this case, this is not the Temple of the Holy. Don't join your body which is indwelt by the Holy Spirit to a prostitute that is another truth in from another passage.

In this particular passage is talking about the church corporately as the temple of God. Do you not know that you are the temple of God? So God's field, God's building God's Temple and that the spirit of God dwells in you, If anyone destroys the temple of God and translating a little bit more, literally there, if anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him.

For the temple of God is Holy. Which Temple you are. Who is not hate. God is love. He cannot be in himself hate. Because from all eternity, there is only God there's nothing to hate.

But when those Who are created free. Sin and are evil. God hates. All wickedness. With all of the love that he has for his own Glory. And he has especially determined to glorify himself in his son. And to glorify his son. In his church.

And so, we must put In the same category as the scripture does here. Sewing Discord among the Brethren. We'll put it in the same category as hands that shed, innocent blood. Feet that are Swift. To run evil. A false witness. Who speaks lives? The proud look. God, opposes the proud.

We heard in chapter 3 and verse 34. And Scripture picking that up again. In James chapter 4 First, Peter chapter 5. But the crowning one in this list. In this passage. Who sows Strife? Among the Brethren. Now again, Let me make an application, particularly Uh, to those children. I think that would be all of the children here now.

In families where there are many children. As soon as there is conflict or Strife beginning to arise the first moment of being cross or against one another in your family with your brothers and sisters. Know that you are putting yourself in danger of acting in a way that God hates.

He hates the one. Who stirs up Strife? Among the Brethren instead be that blessed? Peacemaker. Who is a child of God? Don't insist upon your rights. If you have to love your brother and sister do Matthew 18 with them and if they don't repent right away get the help of mom or dad or some other believer, bring someone else as a witness follow the word of God in those situations.

But do not be someone who stirs up Strife in your home. With your family. With your brothers and sisters. For all of us. Let us beware of being. A useless. Adam. Let us beware of being the manipulator. Rather. Let us be diligent in. What is good? Avoiding scheming working with our hands.

And living. A quiet life.