

# Proverbs Week #66 (6:16-19cont.)

*“There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers. (Prov 6:16-19)*

Our study of the seven things the Lord hates ends with “one who spreads strife among brothers.” Taking this passage as a chiasm, our parallel theme for this is “haughty eyes.” The destructive nature of pride affects us as individuals and impacts our relationships with one another. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6, Matt 23:12). The Lord will tear down the house of the proud (Prov 15:25) and everyone who is proud of heart is an abomination to the Lord (Prov 16:5). The pride of mankind displays itself in jealousy and selfish ambition (James 3:14). People who follow this “earthly wisdom” fight and quarrel and yet think they are wise.

*“Therefore if there is any encouragement in the Messiah, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.” (Phil 2:1-4)*

My aim in today’s family lesson is to persuade us all to give no room for selfishness and pride in our lives. My support for this persuasion is Yeshua Himself. Paul urged those in Philippi to “do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit.” He pulled out “the big guns” and looked to the Messiah as the one who sets our example and should be the foundation for how we act (“... any encouragement in the Messiah...consolation of love.”)

To grow in wisdom we need to put into practice those things we know are true.

- 1) Foundational principle #1 – our encouragement for life comes from the Messiah (John 10:10). He is our good Shepherd who laid down His life that we might live as faithful sheep. We do not set our hope on something we created but upon the promises of the Living God.
- 2) Foundational principle #2 – as individuals and families who have placed their hope in Yeshua we have a singular Spirit and are part of His family (Eph 3:6). We are fellow heirs of the promises of God and fellow members of His body. I want to remind all of us that this is why we gather together on Shabbat. We are living out the reality we have learned from our God. We can come together according to God’s plans and worship, pray, learn, and rest together.
- 3) Action Point #1 – Do nothing from selfishness or pride. Now that we know where our encouragement comes from and what we are a part of, how then should we conduct ourselves in this family. Pride always looks for ways to exalt itself and usually tries to diminish others. Be a good friend, brother, sister, parent, child, aunt, uncle, grandparent, etc... by looking to give of yourself to others. Do this with others’ best interests in mind and learn to serve by the example our Messiah has set.
- 4) Action Point #2 – Be thankful to God. Deut 8:14 warns us that if we eat and are satisfied and forget to bless God we are in danger of becoming proud and forgetting Him. In simple things and in big things remember to be thankful to God (Phil 4:6).
- 5) Action Point #3 – Consider others with greater importance than yourself. Look for ways to be helpful to others. Do you remember what I taught a long time ago about asking others if you can help? I asked the children to go to their mothers or fathers and ask them, “Is there anything I can do to help?” Then I urged you listen and help as best you can.
- 6) Action Point #4 – Remember and know that God is a faithful Shepherd. Do not busy yourself in seeking your own pleasures and think that by worrying you will add to your life. Yeshua once told a story of a birds and God’s care for them (Matt 6:25-30). Our life of faith and faithfulness to God should be lived out with our confidence in Him.