

7 Things God Hates

Proverbs 6:16-19

Calvary Bible Church

February 16, 2020

Lesson Six: Disunity [God hates a pot-stirrer]

Opening Illustration: We all know somebody who just loves to stir the pot.

The longer I live, the more I see of the vanity and the sinfulness of our unchristian disputes: they eat up the very vitals of religion. I grieve to think how often I have lost my time and my temper that way, in presuming to regulate the vineyards of others, when I have neglected my own... I am now desirous to choose a better part... I allow that every branch of gospel truth is precious, that errors are abounding, and that it is our duty to bear honest testimony to what the Lord has enabled us to find comfort in, and to instruct with meekness such as are willing to be instructed; but I cannot see it my duty, nay, I believe it would be my sin, to attempt to beat my notions into other people's heads. Too often I have attempted it in time past; but I now judge that both my zeal and my weapons were carnal.

–John Newton

I. Review/Introduction

A. *God hates:*

1. Haughty eyes
2. A lying tongue
3. Hands that shed innocent blood
4. A heart that devise evil plans.
5. Feet that run rapidly to evil

II. God hates a pot-stirrer.

A. *What do you mean by a “Pot-stirrer”?*

1. There are some people who seem discontent with peace and just like to cause some drama. They seem to feel a need to stir the pot.

III. Why does God hate a “Pot-stirrer”?

A. *Pot-stirring is inconsistent with the nature of the church.*

1. We are the body of Christ. **1 Cor 12:11-28**

B. *Pot-stirring is disobedient to the expressed earthly desire and command of Christ.*

1. **John 17:11** "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as *We are*."
2. **John 17:22** "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as *We are one*;"
3. **John 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

C. *Pot-stirring disregards the work of Christ.*

1. **Romans 14:15** For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

D. *Pot-stirring is counterproductive in terms of our mission and purpose.*

1. **Romans 14:19** So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.
2. **1 Corinthians 7:15** ... but God has called us to peace.

IV. How does the Bible describe “Pot-stirrers”?

A. *They are slaves to their own appetites and deceitful.*

1. **Romans 16:17-18** Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

B. *They are subject to Church Discipline.*

1. **Titus 3:10-11** Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, ¹¹ knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

V. Does this mean that separation is always wrong?

A. *No. There are good and necessary lines of separation that must be drawn.*

1. 2 Corinthians 6 commands separation.

B. *Honest disagreements are necessarily sinful.*

1. Just because I think I am right doesn't mean that I think I can't be wrong!
2. Example: Paul and Barnabas split over John Mark's involvement in the ministry.

VI. What are we to develop instead? What is our alternative? *Unity and peace*

A. *Peacemakers are blessed.*

1. **Matthew 5:9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

B. *Peacemaking is commanded.*

1. **Hebrews 12:14** Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

C. *Peacemaking is sometimes impossible.*

1. **Romans 12:18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.
2. **Matthew 10:34** "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

VII. Conclusion to this lesson—*Let's grow together, not come apart.*

A. *Let's do our best to value peace in the body and to do what we can to encourage it.*

1. See **Romans 14:19** above.
2. **1 Corinthians 7:15** ... but God has called us to peace.

B. *Let's make sure that division is a last resort, and only on the basis of truly central issues.*

C. *Let's resolve never to put a stumbling block in front of someone by causing unnecessary conflict.*

VIII. Conclusion to this series

A. *Because of Who God is, He must hate our sin.*

B. *Because of who we are, we inevitably fall into sin.*

C. *Despite God's hatred for our sin, He loves us.*

D. *Despite our nature's propensity to sin, we fight it.*

1. "Even the most mature saint will struggle against worldliness & apathy toward God. There is no sincere Christian who does not lament his or her spiritual & moral failures. Yet this lamenting is one evidence of conversion. The unregenerate are unconcerned about such things." Paul Washer