

# Spiritual Pot-Holes

Proverbs 6:16-19

**Scripture:** Amos 5:15 “Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate!  
Perhaps the Lord God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant  
of Joseph.

## **Introduction:**

Growing up, I spent a lot of time out at my good friends ranch. I learned to drive out in the fields on a John Deere Tractor. My favorite place to drive is still in the dirt. No safety belts required and no stop signs.

The bad thing is that we took that same thinking to the open roads when we got cars. We had in mind that as long as we were on a dirt road outside of town, all the laws ceased to exist.

We used to drive way out in the country by the Bull Creek Sod Farm and there was this old wooden bridge there. My friend would take his VW bug and we would go really fast and hit that bridge and go air born. It was all really fun....unless you're a kid listening then it was really bad !

But right after the bridge jump there were wash-boards in the road that would beat your teeth out. Dirt roads are really hard on your cars.

One day while four wheel driving on the levy roads by the Verdigris river I turned a corner and the road was gone and I fell in the mother of all pot holes. I am still amazed I didn't tear up my dads truck because we fell into a four foot wash out.

## **Transitional Statement:**

Church Spiritually speaking there are many pot holes in this life. And most of the time they are just around the corner where you can't see them until it is too late. Today I hope to gain a better understanding of these pot holes so we can stay out of them

## **Read:**

Proverbs 6:16-19

16 There are six things which the Lord hates,  
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,

18 A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that run rapidly to evil,

19 A false witness who utters lies,  
And one who spreads strife among brothers.

## Lesson:

### I. First, lets talk about hate

A. Hate is a really strong word and I don't know about you but I was raised thinking it was wrong to hate.

B. So is it wrong to hate?

1. Well it depends on what hate your are talking about.

a. In the Greed "to hate," is used especially (a) of malicious and unjustifiable feelings towards others, whether towards the innocent or by mutual animosity (Vines)

-Example Matthew 10:22 *"You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved."*

-This is hate without any reason, unjust and wrong.

b. But the Hebrew uses a word for "hate" that simply means to set against

-Example Amos 5:15 *"Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the Lord God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."*

-This hate is not only right it is expected and is the type of hate we will be talking about this evening.

2. Let's read Proverbs 6:16 *"There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:*

a. You see God hates, in that He is set against, sin

b. He wants us to be also

### II. So the first thing mentioned is that God hates haughty eyes

A. "Haughty eyes" is the first thing mentioned in verse 17. Haughty eyes represent pride, and pride has always been one of the worst enemies of God's people. Pride can best be seen in the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis Chapter 11 where man tries to build a tower to heaven thus elevating themselves. Anytime man elevates himself with pride he in actuality tries to bring God lower.

B. Somebody said it is not the look but what is in the look that matters. And so is it with pride.

1. Luke 20:46 “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,”

- a. i.e. to be seen of man

2. Jesus addresses the same thing in Matthew chapter 6:1-4

Matthew 6:1-4

*“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.*

*2 "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. 3 "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”*

3. The sin of pride promotes the idea that one person is better than another.
  - a. I actually had a high school friend who bought into the idea that his genetic make up made him superior to other people.
  - b. Galatians 6:3 *“For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”*
4. Proverbs 11:2 says with pride comes disgrace. In the minor prophets we see a lot of disgrace because pride was one of Israel’s biggest problems. Israel became so wrapped up in itself that they could no longer see God.
5. It has been said that when you go to God with a heart full of yourself, God has no room to give you a blessing.
6. Today many people are trying to build the Tower of Babel again. We must not be a part of it because God hates it and it is detestable to Him. Most of us can quote Proverbs 16:18 *“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.”*

### C. God Hates pride !

...it is against everything that He is.

\*He wants humility

\*1 Peter 5:6 *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,”*

### III. God hates a lying tongue

- A. Lying is a willful perversion of the truth with intent to deceive.
- B. In some parts of the world lying has become an acceptable thing.
  - 1. Even honorable if the end somehow justifies the means.
  - 2. Certainly this is also prevalent thinking in the United States also.
  - 3. Do you remember when president Bill Clinton stood before our nation and proclaimed with all the fervor of his heart that he had not had sexual relations with Monica Lewinski?
- C. Lying doesn't always have to be as bold.
  - 1. You know when your wife ask you how you like her new hair cut that is just awful, and you say looks great !
  - 2. Or how about if your tired asking your husband or wife to tell people on the phone that your not there when you are.
- D. Lying can also include not giving all the facts so as to mislead someone's thinking.
  - 1. Your boss calls to ask why your not at work and tell him that your sick, but you fail to mention that you are simply sick of work.
  - 2. Twisting the truth
  - 3. Our nations capital uses a colorful word to describe lying, they call it Spin
- E. Lying can also be letting something believe what is false without setting things straight.
  - 1. A long time ago my wife and I went to Hawaii where we had a photograph made you know where they put your heads on someone else's bodies. I still have the poster we bought in which I apparently have muscles like Hulk Hogans. My kids were so impressed thinking it was really me...but I am really going to have to get around to telling them the truth...(a little humor)
- E. Revelation 21:8 *“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

F. **God hates a lying tongue !**

1. He want truthfulness
2. John 4:24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**IV. God also hates hands that shed innocent blood.**

- A. Do you remember when Cain killed his brother Abel? God was so displeased that he put Cain under a curse. And as a result of the curse the fields would no longer yield a crop for him and he would be a restless wonderer all the days of his life.
- B. Here we see people who disrupt God’s plan for man by destroying a human life and canceling any chances for that person to come to know God or carry out their God given role in this world.
- C. Since it is God who gives life, it is only His for the taking. But these people make themselves to be God.
1. Today I think of the senseless heinous killings that go on in our world.
  2. Some just for fun....drive by and shoot at innocent people
- D. Blood represents life according to God’s own words to Noah on the Mountains of Ararat. Gen. 9:4
- E. **God hate hands that shed innocent blood**
1. Revelation 21:8 “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

2. But God loves the heart that would mend the broken.

\*Like the good Samaritan

Luke 10:33-34

*“But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.”*

## V. God also hates a heart that devises wicked thoughts

- A. The heart is such a precious thing before God. In the bible the heart represents the inner conscience of a person. Here God is talking about people who take the mental faculties that He has giving them for doing something good and using it for wicked schemes.
- B. Wicked schemes always leave someone at the bottom. They hurt people and often times have effects that last a lifetime. Remember in the Garden of Eden when the Devil schemed on Eve. The wickedness of that scheme changed the course of all mankind.
- C. Today unfortunately there are many who sit around and plan ways to be evil. Their desires are on evil all the time.
- D. When the Conscience reaches this point God has been rejected and Evil is abounding.
- E. God knows the heart and thoughts of a man even before they think it. People might think when their heart is bound up in wickedness that no-one sees or knows, but God is always watching.
- F. **So God hates hearts that devise wicked thoughts**
  - 1. But God loves mind that is under control
  - 2. 2 Corinthians 10:5 *“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,”*

## VI. God hates feet that are swift to run to evil

- A. People get eager about all kind of things. One Christmas Eve night I had to work all night at the power plant and I got off at 5:00 the next morning. When I got home this little boy named Colton meet me at the door....seems he had been up all night eagerly waiting for his presents.
- B. Sometimes Satan takes such a strong hold in peoples hearts that they become eager to sin. In the quite recesses of their minds they constantly plot on the next opportunity actually to the point that it becomes like a drug from which they get a high.
- C. **Hey church, God hates feet that are swift to run to evil**
  - 1. God wants our feet to run to him like He ran to embrace the prodigal in Luke 15.

## **VII. God also hates a False Witness**

- A. In the ten commandments in Exodus chapter 20 we see that we are not to bear false testimony. Over the course of time many people have perjured themselves on the witness stand to save their own bacon or someone else’.
- B. Sometimes the payoff for a False witness takes the form of a payback.
  - 1. I’m going to get you back.
  - 2. An eye for an eye and tooth for a tooth.
- C. These kind type of people struggle with being controlling. They haven’t recognized that control is for the most part a human illusion. God is the only real controller and our destiny belongs to him.
- D. **God hates a False Witness**
  - 1. But God loves the promotion of grace Col 4:6

## **VIII. Lastly, God says those who are divisive are an abomination**

- A. The textual evidence seems to single out this last one as an abomination
  - 1. That which is totally disgusting
- B. Here it seems that we have the summation of the list in one single thing, divisiveness.
- C. Those who would actively destroy God’s Church for their own glorification.
  - 1. Drawing lines in the sand where God has not.
- D. This, plain and simple, makes God sick!
- E. God created His Church to be unified and these type of people work against God Himself.
  - 1. They are broods of vipers and wolves in sheep’s clothing.
- E. This would explain the great amount of New Testament writing toward divisiveness.
  - 1. The whole book of First Corinthians addresses the subject
  - 2. And Titus 3:10 clearly marks God’s intent on the subject.
    - a. Titus 3:10 “Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,”

F. **So divisive is an abomination to God.**

1. Matthew 12:25 “...Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.”

2. God promotes unity in the bonds of peace Eph 4:3

**Conclusion:**

**God hates!**

**Pride**

**Lying**

**Taking of life**

**Wicked hearts**

**Eagerness for evil**

**False witnessing**

**Divisiveness**

**God Loves!**

**Humility**

**Truthfulness**

**Promoters of Life**

**Pure hearts**

**Eagerness for righteousness**

**Honesty**

**Unity**