

A Truthful Tongue

Proverbs 6:16-19*

The word pictures and wise sayings of Proverbs remind us that deception is the basis of betrayal. Betrayal destroys trust. Without trust and truth there is no basis for loving relationships.

Herb Vander Lugt writes: "Truth is the essential foundation of good business, good government, and good science. Truth is the basis of faithful marriages, lasting friendships, and a personal relationship with God.

Lies are hellish tactics of the devil. They are sources of darkness rather than light, and sorrow rather than rejoicing. Lies steal honor for a moment, while assuring that the honor will later turn into shame.³

To please God, we must know what He values. What does He care about? What does He love? What does He hate?

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God's values in the negative form (16-19)

- #1. God hates haughty eyes
- #2. God hates a lying tongue (17b)

God's values in the positive form (select vv.)

*These notes are prayerfully prepared to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's word.

³ Herb Vander Lugt, *Knowing God Through Proverbs*, RBC

God's attitude toward sin

But what is God's attitude toward sin? Our text tells us, *God's attitude toward sin is HATE*. God loves the world with infinite love! God hates sin with infinite hate! How does our text show that? Listen.

"God so loved the world, *that he gave his only begotten Son*, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." —John 3:16

How does that show that God hates sin? In this way: If God had not hated sin He could have saved the world He loved without an atonement, without the atonement that cost Him so much, the death and agony of His only begotten Son, who died as an atoning sacrifice on the Cross. But because God was holy and therefore hated sin, hated it with infinite hatred, His hatred of sin must manifest itself somehow, either in the punishment of the sinner, and the banishment of the sinner forever from Himself and from life, and from hope, or in some other way.

But God's love would not permit the just punishment of the sinner. So God in the person of His Son took the penalty of sin upon Himself and thus saved the world He loved.

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah *hath made to strike on him* the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6, exactly translated from the Hebrew).

In this way God made possible eternal life for every sinner who would accept the salvation that He Himself purchased for them by the atoning death of His only begotten Son.

The Cross of Christ declares two things: first, God's infinite love of the world; second, God's infinite hatred of sin. Oh, wicked man, do not fancy because God loves you, He will wink at your sin. Not for one moment. He hates your sin, He hates your greed, He hates your selfishness, He hates your cruelty, He hates your dishonesty, He hates your lying, He hates your drunkenness, He hates your impure imagination, He hates your moral uncleanness, He hates your beastliness, He hates every sin, great and small, of which you are guilty. The hatred of a true man for all falsehood, the hatred of honest men for all dishonesty, the hatred of a true, pure woman for the unspeakable vileness of the woman of the street and gutter, is nothing to the blazing wrath of God at your smallest sin.

Nevertheless, God loves you.²

¹ Herb Vander Lugt, *Knowing God Through Proverbs*, RBC

² Reuben Archer Torrey, *The Gospel for to-day* (New York; Chicago: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1922), 51–52.