

Activists for the Truth

Proverbs 6:16-19*

“The LORD hates . . . a false witness who speaks lies” (6:16,19).

The word pictures and wise sayings of Solomon honor a helping attitude. This is the opposite of the false witness that God hates (6:19). Proverbs warns that God is against those who withhold justice and mercy. But He is for those who give words of encouragement and a helping hand to those in need. Many of the proverbs picture kindness and mercy as basic values of God.

Whether Proverbs is speaking of humility or pride, truth or lies, honest work or fraud, caution or rashness, the underlying concern is always to encourage us to be messengers of help rather than harm:

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

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

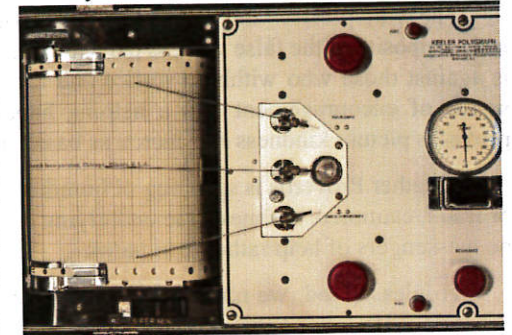
- #1. God hates haughty eyes (17a)
- #2. God hates a lying tongue (17b)
- #3. God hates hands that shed innocent blood (17c)
- #4. God hates a heart that devises wicked plans (18a)
- #5. God hates feet that run rapidly to evil (18b)
- #6. God hates a false witness who utters lies (19a)

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

Lying is hard work

Lying takes serious thought! That's the conclusion of neuroscientists at Temple University. According to the Chicago Tribune, “With brain imaging technology, they can see how a lie sparks activity deep in the limbic system, the center of emotion and self-preservation.

The lie gathers support from the memory banks in the left and right temporal lobes and then makes a dash to the frontal cortex, where a decision is made to suppress what the brain knows to be true.”



Researchers see this technology eventually replacing the polygraph lie detector test, which is only about 90 percent accurate. It is based on accelerated heart and breathing rates which some liars can control. Brain activity would be much harder to mask.

Dr. Scott H. Faro says, “Lying is a complex behavior. There's more activity and more interactions that occur during a lie than in truth telling.”

God made telling the truth natural to us, but ever since Adam and Eve our minds have been working overtime in our attempts to lie.

Lee Eclov, Vernon Hills, Illinois; source: Ronald Kotulak, “Lips Can Lie, But Your Brain Will Spill the Beans,” Chicago Tribune

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