Proverbs 6:16-19

“Seven Sins the Savior Hates”

Introduction

This is the seventh and final sermon in a series of messages entitled; “Seven Sins the Savior Hates.” Working through these verses each sin that has been mentioned has revealed our sinfulness. Verse sixteen says that these sins are abominations unto our Lord. He hates them, He detest them, and He opposes all continually commit them. Verse twelve informs us that these sins are characteristic of a naughty, or wicked man. This is someone who is not a Christian and has never been saved. These are sins of the flesh, and can also be found in the Christian as well.

Tonight the sin that we will examine is found in verse nineteen, “he that soweth discord among brethren.” Discord could be one of the most devastating and destructive sins that Churches are guilty of today. Most Churches aren’t full of people committing adultery. Most aren’t full of people committing murder. Most aren’t full of whoremongers. But most are full of discord. Tonight I would simply like to point out some different dimensions of discord and as we examine each one prayerfully ask yourself if you are guilty of sowing discord among brethren.

The first dimension of discord I would like to examine is

I. The Spreading of Discord

How do we spread strife? How is it that discord occurs? Does it grow like a weed grows in a garden? The answer is found in our text.
A. Discord is Spread by our Mouth

The sin that is an abomination to the Lord is the one who sows discord. The Cambridge bible commentary says that the word sow in our text means, “letting loose, sending or casting forth, as was done in the hand sowing of those days and countries.”

That analogy causes me to think about when someone sows grass seed. They take the seed in their hand and the throw it, they let it loose, they cast it forth in hopes that it will grow. The only difference is that this individual is sowing strife. We spread strife by our mouth. Strife does not sow itself, but it is sown by the words we say.

B. Discord is Spread in others Minds

Adam Clark says that one sowing strife is the one “who by lies and misrepresentations, strive to make men’s minds evil-affected towards their brethren.”

You are guilty of spreading discord when you are intentionally saying something to affect the way someone thinks about someone else. Regardless of the circumstance, if what we say is said with the intention of putting distance between those we speak to and the one we speak about, we are sowing discord.

C. Discord is Spread in outright Malignity

When discord is spread, discord was the intention. Discord does not occur on accident, but is the desired effect. It is our sinful and evil nature that causes us to purposely run down another individual who is created in the image of God. Discord is a sin against our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as a sin against God Himself.
Matthew Henry said, “Those that by tale-bearing and slandering, by carrying ill-natured stories, aggravating every thing that is said and done, and suggesting jealousies and evil surmises, blow the coals of contention, are but preparing for themselves a fire of the same nature.”

The second dimension of discord I would like to examine is

II. The Separation of Discord

Our text tells us that the one doing the sowing is sowing discord. Discord has the idea of strife and strife if unresolved will result in separation. Here are some ways that separation will unfold if strife is unresolved.

A. Separation starts with a Disagreement

Separation starts when you have an angry disagreement with someone over an issue. You see it one-way, they see it another way, and that causes you to become angry.

B. Separation escalates into a Dispute

If unresolved disagreements turn into disputes. What once was a matter of the mind has escalated into an argument or a heated debate.

C. Separation brings about Division

Sowing discord has the idea of sending away, separating, and can even mean divorce! In most situations the disagreements that turn
into disputes end in division. Hot heads cant settle anything. Now you have an ill feeling towards another individual because of what you have heard or because of something they have said or done. The disagreement you has now been wedged between you both and you are separated.

_The third dimension of discord that I would like to examine is_

III. _The Sphere of Discord_

Where is it that this discord is taking place? I would like to tell you that it was taking place in the world, but that is not what our text tells us. The text tells us that this strife is sown among brethren. This is not talking about the world; this is talking about those who know the Lord and who have been through the same womb of grace and been saved by the grace of God!

A. _This Discord destroys Families_

There are some of you who have siblings who have done you wrong time and time again and yet you love them and would do anything for them that you could. Then why are there some Christians who you can’t stand? Why are there Christians who you won’t forgive? After all they are closer family than your physical relatives anyway.

B. _This Discord destroys Friendships_

_Prov. 16:28_ A forward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.
Some of my closest friends are in my family, but not my natural family, the family of God. Family without friendship is no family at all. Family by definition is those who live together, those who are related to one another and should be treated with special loyalty. A friend is one who knows you, likes you, and supports you.

It is the whisperer, the talebearer, or the slanderer that is able to separate the closest of friends! In separating you from your friends you lose a support system. You lose part of your strength.

C. This Discord destroys Fruitfulness

Eccl 4:9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Discord, conflict, and strife not only bring harm to you but it can harm those around you as well. Your strength will not be as strong, your reward wont be as sweet, and your crop wont be as big!

Charles Bridges said, “If the heavenly dew descends upon the brethren that dwell together in unity, a withering blast will fall on those who mistaking prejudice for principle cause divisions for their own selfish ends.”

If there is discord sown in this Church then God may very well bless it with His absence instead of blessing with the warmth of His presence. Oh yes we will still have service, but we wont be as strong
as we could be, we wont see what we could have saw, and God wont do what He might have done had we be unified!

If judgment awaits those who continue on in unrepentant sin, how much more those who know the Lord but refuse get along with one another over petty arguments and selfish desires?

Rom. 14:19 gives us the solution for discord. “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

If it isn’t going to bring peace, then we don’t need to pursue it. If it isn’t going to edify, or build up the body of Christ then I don’t need to say it.

Matt. 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Conclusion

Now that we have examined the dimensions of discord, are you guilty of sowing discord among God’s children? Maybe you find yourself in the disagreement stage, or the dispute stage, or maybe division has set in? Would you come to the Lord and let him help you.

Maybe someone has said things about you, and your friends have forsaken you. Let me encourage you that there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother! He will never leave you nor forsake you. Cling to HIM!

As we conclude this series may we heed the words of H.A. Ironside, “The only way any of us can avoid these hateful ways is to earnestly cleave to God and His Word, that we may be sanctified by truth.”