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Free Article: "How to Recognize Bad Advice"

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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ **Fight truth decay—brush up on the Bible**
- ~ **No meal is complete without the Bread of Life.**
- ~ **It is better to say a good thing about a bad fellow than to say a bad thing about a good fellow.**
- ~ **He who has a sharp tongue soon cuts his own throat.**
- ~ **"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." – Aristotle**

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What God Hates by John T. Polk II

"These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren" (**Proverbs 6:16-19**)

"The world" God loved and gave His only begotten Son for (**John 3:16**) was humanity, not the globe, itself! But everybody in that "world" is lost unless, they, individually, accept and obey the offer to be saved through His Son (**Mark 16:15, 16**), for "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (**1 John 5:19**).

Verse 16: God wants no one to be lost (**2 Peter 3:9**), but here are seven sins that God "hates." An **"abomination"** to God is something that He judges horrible, shameful, immoral, disgusting, for which He has intense dislike, or hatred. There is no way anybody can consider him/herself safe, saved, loved, or forgiven who practices these sins. In fact, God hates those who decide to practice evil (**Psalms 5:4-6**).

Verse 17:

- **"A proud look:"** Having an inflated opinion of oneself so that others are "beneath." This comes from a degraded opinion of others, for whatever reason. "The wicked" have this look (**Psalms 10:4**), the young can develop this (**1 Peter 5:5**), a "generation" can have this (**Proverbs 30:13**), and so can politicians (**Acts 12:20-24**). It fits into a whole list of sins from "the last days" of the Jews in the First Century (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**).
- **"A lying tongue:"** Lying is "but for a moment" (**Proverbs 12:19**), therefore it is not eternal truth. Since the Devil fathers all lies (**John 8:44**), then all liars will be Hell-bound (**Revelation 21:8**). God opposes false prophets (**Ezekiel 33:8-9**), and those who change His commandments in His Word (**1 Timothy 4:1-5**), for He makes lies have consequences (**Hosea 10:13**). Lying is deliberate tampering with truth either by adding falsehoods

to it or hiding some of the truth from honest inquiry. This is not the same as not knowing all the truth (**Acts 3:12-21**), which may end in sin.

- **"Hands that shed innocent blood:"** Babies are purely "innocent," for unborn babies have done neither "good nor evil" (**Romans 9:11**). The "innocent" are listed with the "righteous" (**Exodus 23:7**), and it is an idolatrous society who "sheds innocent blood" (**Psalms 106:34-39**), as the Jews proved who crucified Jesus Christ (**Acts 13:26-30**). Those who "persecute" Christians "do not please God" (**1 Thessalonians 2:14-16**).

Verse 18:

- **"A heart that devises wicked plans:"** God is ready to forgive those who are willing to repent and "be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**), but never to those whose hearts "devise wicked plans" (are set on finding wicked ways). This was the prevalent attitude that caused God to destroy the earth by flood in Noah's day (**Genesis 6:5**), and describes complete corruption.
- **"Feet that are swift in running to evil:"** These are "ambulance-chasers" of sin, finding attraction to anyone and everyone who has committed evil offense against God and man. Solomon has already warned his son of these people (**Proverbs 1:15-16**).

Verse 19:

- **"A false witness who speaks lies:"** Lies used against others show reckless disregard not only for one's own soul, but for others' reputation, character, goods, or person. This phrase includes gossip, slander, defamation, whispering, backbiting, and anything else designed to falsely place a stigma on someone else (**Proverbs 25:18; Romans 1:28-32**). Even the courts of the land are hostile to this, calling it "perjury." Sound Gospel Preachers will never stoop to such an abomination, or call it *keeping the church pure*.
- **"And one who sows discord among brethren:"** The Word of God seeks to bring people together in Jesus Christ

(**John 17:20-21; Ephesians 4:1-6**) because "how good and how pleasant *it is* For brethren to dwell together in unity!" (**Psalms 133:1**) The sowers of "discord" are working to directly destroy what God's Gospel can achieve. Division in the churches of Christ never happen because of what the Bible says, but because of those who magnify and exploit differences, slights, misunderstandings, ignorance, and feelings over Scriptures. Since love is the "bond of perfection" (**Colossians 3:14**), sowers of discord attack the very heart of churches of Christ, and must be marked and avoided (**Romans 16:17-18**).

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THEOPHILUS

Sunday School Lessons

