

#3—Hands That Shed Innocent Blood

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 7, 2012

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BIG SANDY, Texas—One of my favorite sections of Scripture is Proverbs 6:16-19. The reason is that I can clearly identify seven traits that God hates and seven traits that God loves.

It is important to notice that the devil reflects the seven traits that God hates.

This week, let's look at some verses that mention "hands that shed innocent blood" (verse 17).

The blood of the innocent Christ

After the sin committed in the Garden of Eden, the book of Genesis describes various consequences for the serpent (Genesis 3:14-15), Eve (verse 16) and Adam (verses 17-19).

What blame did the serpent have? Adam and Eve were responsible for their own actions. The serpent was responsible for influencing them to sin.

Notice that the consequences mentioned to the serpent involved his relationship with mankind and with the Messiah of mankind.

Genesis 3:15—"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

What's interesting about this prophecy is that the devil became very involved in bruising the heel of the Messiah.

John 13:27—"Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.' "

The blood of innocent children

Believers acknowledge that the devil is the "prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2).

Believers recognize that this world is filled with people shedding the blood of other people.

Isaiah 59:3—“For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity.”

Oftentimes, guilty people are shedding the blood of other guilty people. However, there are times when the devil influences people to shed the blood of innocent people.

■ *Exodus 1:22*—“So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, ‘Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.’”

■ *Matthew 2:16*—“Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.”

■ How many innocent children have been killed by abortion through the years?

Accusing innocent people

While the action of killing innocent people is obvious, the action of accusing innocent people represents the same flawed attitude and approach.

Notice an example when Jesus defended His disciples.

On a particular Sabbath day, Jesus went through a field (*Matthew 12:1*). His disciples were hungry, so they began to eat from the field (also verse 1).

When the Pharisees saw what Jesus’ disciples were doing, they began to criticize their behavior to Him (verse 2).

Jesus defended His disciples with three comments.

■ First, He mentioned how King David in the Old Testament ate of the shewbread that was designated only for the priests (verses 3-4).

■ Second, He mentioned from the Old Testament law how the priests were allowed privileges on the Sabbath without being condemned (verse 5).

■ Lastly (verse 7), He mentioned that, if they understood a concept, they would not have condemned the innocent. (He mentioned this concept earlier in *Matthew 9:13*.)

Matthew 12:7—“But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.”