

#7—Sowing Discord Among Brothers

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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 discuss "sowing discord among brothers" (verse 19).

One third of the stars

When believers read the biblical accounts of the fallen angels, they know that the angels must face consequences for their actions.

Jude 6—"And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day."

But believers also know the devil was instrumental in influencing the sin of the angels.

Revelation 12:4—"His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth . . ."

Nurturing anger

One of the great devices of the devil is to promote anger. We have learned that the devil has great wrath (Revelation 12:12). We understand that the devil likes to influence people to nurture their wrath.

Ephesians 4:26-27—" 'Be angry, and do not sin': do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."

Hurtful motives

While it is possible for a person to sow discord by naive words and actions, much discord is accomplished with malicious intent.

Notice two different motivations for sowing discord.

- Some people sow discord because of envy. They don't like seeing someone else experience success and prosperity.
- Some people sow discord because their own wounded pride causes them to be angry and to seek revenge.

While some discord is done boldly in the open, much discord is done subtly in darkness. Remember the devil's subtle approach in sowing discord between God and the first couple (Genesis 3:1-5).

A few examples

It should come as no surprise that the devil successfully influences people to behave like him.

Genesis 27:6-10, 41-43—"So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, 'Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying, "Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death." Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you. Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves. Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death' . . . So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, 'The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.' And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, 'Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.' "

1 Timothy 6:4-5—"He is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself."

3 John 9-10—"I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church."