

“Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 6”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 14, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a seven-part series. The title of the presentation was “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 6.”

The presentation began with the sixth listed characteristic that God hates—that being “a false witness who speaks lies.” From there, I also talked about the sixth characteristic that God loves—that being “a true witness who speaks truth.”

Two traits talk about lying

At the beginning of the presentation, I wanted to make some quick observations about the difference between trait No. 2 (a lying tongue) and trait No. 6 (a false witness who speaks lies).

Both No. 2 and No. 6 have a broad application to everyday living.

- People lie for an advantage—often for power, control and money.
- People lie for status—for recognition, popularity and acceptance.

But here is an element that is associated with No. 6—a false witness who speaks lies has overtones of dealing with a legal system. We will notice that shortly when we discuss Deuteronomy 19:15-21.

Meaning of the names

A false witness who speaks lies certainly sounds like the devil. The adversary's name describes who he is.

- “Satan” in Hebrew is described in *Strong's Concordance* as: “adversary, accuser, one who opposes, slanderer; as a proper name) Satan, the spirit being who is an opponent of God and slanderer of His creation.”
- “Satan” in Greek is described in *Strong's Concordance* as: “hostile opponent.”
- “Devil” in Greek (*diabolos*) is described in *Strong's Concordance* as: “devilish, malicious, slanderous.”

Satan is a false witness

- Genesis 3:4-5—The serpent lied about the Lord God to Adam and Eve.
- Luke 22:3-6—Satan entered Judas to confer with the chief priests and captains to betray the Son of God.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14—Satan projects himself as an angel of light.
- Revelation 12:10—The serpent (called the devil and Satan) was described as “the accuser of the brethren, who accused them before our God day and night.”

Court connection

Now, let’s go to Deuteronomy 19:15-21 to see the connection with a court.

- Deuteronomy 19:15—One witness is not enough for any iniquity or any sin. Matters should be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses.
- Deuteronomy 19:16-17—Controversies between two individuals were taken “before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who serve in those days.”
- Deuteronomy 19:18-19—When a false witness testified falsely against a person, the Bible said: “You shall do to him as he thought to have done to [the other person].”
- Deuteronomy 19:20—Such an approach would help to reduce the practice of being a false witness.
- Deuteronomy 19:21—“Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.”

Christ’s words

The Son of God mentioned “an eye for an eye” in the Sermon on the Mount.

- Matthew 5:38-42—The Son of God said: “You have heard that it was said: ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you . . .”

(At this time, I want to share a brief personal opinion with my friends. I believe that it is healthy to introduce a scaled-down version of the concept of “an eye for an eye” to children and young people—to help them to deal with cruel individuals and to learn to self-respect. As young people grow up, they should shift toward the words of the Son of God in Matthew 5:38-42.)

Examples of false witnesses

- Luke 11:53-54—Luke wrote: “The scribes and Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently and to cross-examine Him about many things—lying in wait for Him and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.”

- Luke 20:20—Luke wrote: "They [chief priests and scribes, mentioned in verse 19] watched Him and sent spies (who pretended to be righteous) that they might seize on His words—in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor."
- Matthew 26:59-65—Matthew wrote: "The chief priests, elders and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death."
- Acts 6:13-14—Luke wrote: "They also set up false witnesses [against Stephen]."

The Father is a true witness

- Hebrews 6:18—It is impossible for God to lie.
- saiah 45:7—Yet the Lord creates calamity.
- 1 Kings 22:19-23—How did the Lord fulfill His goal of having Ahab to fall at Ramoth Gilead? After listening to several proposed solutions, He approved the plan of a lying spirit.

The Son is a true witness

- John 5:19—The Son does what He sees the Father do.
- John 5:30—The Son judges as He hears what the Father says.
- John 7:16—The Son does the doctrine of Him who sent the Son.
- John 8:28—The Son said: "As My Father taught Me, I speak these things."
- John 18:37—The Son told Pilate why He came: "For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world—that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Old Testament reminders

- Psalm 15:4—In the midst of characteristics that please the Lord in this psalm, David mentions: "He who swears [in a legal proceeding] to his own hurt and does not change."
- Proverbs 12:17—"He who speaks truth declares righteousness, but a false witness deceit."
- Proverbs 14:5—"A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies."
- Proverbs 25:18—"A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword and a sharp arrow."
- Zechariah 8:16—"Give judgment in your courts for truth, justice and peace . . . Do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate, says the LORD."

Giving a testimony

Although I did not spend much time with the final two scriptures in the Bible study, I wanted to quickly mention them as food for thought (on Wednesday night and at the conclusion of this article).

■ Amos 5:13—"Therefore, the prudent keep silent at that time, for it is an evil time."

■ Luke 21:13-15—The Lord will turn some bad situations into an opportunity for Him to give a testimony through you. "Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist."