

# “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 6”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigsandy.com](http://churchofgodbigsandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 14, 2026.

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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."