

“Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 4”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 31, 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 4.”

The presentation began with the fourth listed characteristic that God hates—that being “a heart that devises wicked imaginations.” From there, I also talked about the fourth characteristic that God loves—that being “a caring heart with righteous purposes.”

Wicked heart of the devil

A heart with wicked imaginations certainly sounds like the devil. Let’s notice some examples of the approach of the devil.

Serpent against Adam and Eve

- Genesis 3:1—The cunning serpent asked a “setup” question.
- Genesis 3:4—The cunning serpent contradicted the Lord God.
- Genesis 3:5—The cunning serpent created doubt about God’s intentions.

Satan against Job

Understand a fact that many people seem to overlook—the Lord initiated the trial upon Job, and then Satan offered creative details.

- Job 1:8—The Lord asked Satan: “Have you considered My servant Job?”
- Job 1:9-11—Satan suggested details for the trial.
- Job 1:12—The Lord approved the details, but set up limitations.
- Job 2:3—The Lord asked Satan again: “Have you considered My servant Job?”
- Job 2:4-5—Satan suggested additional details for the trial.
- Job 2:6—The Lord approved the new details and set up new limitations.

Devil against the Son of God

- Matthew 4:1-11—The devil tempted the Son of God in the wilderness.

Satan against Peter

- Matthew 16:23—The Lord said to Peter: “Get behind Me, Satan!”
- Luke 22:31—The Lord said to Peter: “Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.”

Satan against Paul

- 2 Corinthians 11:14—Satan transforms himself into an angel of light.
- 2 Corinthians 12:7—Satan sent a “thorn in the flesh” to “buffet” Paul.

Demons against the children of God

When I wanted to choose one scripture about demons, I decided upon the following one because it has such a positive message for the children of God.

- James 2:19—The demons believe that there is one God, and they “tremble” at that fact.

You having a relationship with the Father and the Son should give you great confidence in Their promises.

Civil leaders against the Son of God

- Luke 23:1—The chiefs priests, scribes and council (Luke 22:66) led the Son to Pilate.
- Luke 23:4—Pilate said: “I find no fault in this Man.”
- Luke 23:5-7—When Pilate heard about Galilee, he concluded that Christ belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction.
- Luke 23:8—Herod was happy to meet Christ.
- Luke 23:11—Herod and his men treated Christ with contempt and mocked Him—before sending Him back to Pilate.
- Luke 23:16—Although Pilate repeated that he found no fault with Christ (verse 14), he wanted to chastise Christ before releasing Him.

Religious leaders against the Son of God

- 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.”

- John 11:53—John wrote: “From that day forward, they [chief priests and Pharisees, who gathered a council in John 11:46] plotted to put Him to death.”

Righteous heart of the Father and Son

A caring heart with righteous purposes certainly sounds like the Father and Son. Let's notice examples of the approach of the Father and Son.

(For the record, I could use many of the same verses from last week's article about “Hands to Help the Guilty” to show the love that the Father and Son have for all of mankind. But I will use only two verses from last week's article and then focus on additional verses.)

Two reminders from last week

- Luke 19:41-44—The Son of God wept over Jerusalem.
- Luke 22:41-44—In the Garden of Gethemane, the Son of God prayed fervently about His death for every person.

New scriptures about the Father and Son

- Luke 4:18-19—Notice the caring approach of the Father and Son.
- John 10:28-29—The Son of God said that no one can snatch you out of His hand, and no one can snatch you out of the Father's hand.
- John 11:35—The Son of God wept over the death of Lazarus.
- John 19:25-27—The Son of God instructed John to look after His mother.

Children of God had caring hearts

- Acts 4:36—The name Barnabas is translated “Son of Encouragement.”
- Acts 9:24-25—When the disciples realized that Saul's life was in danger, they hid him in a basket to drop him down the wall.
- Acts 9:27—Barnabas took Paul to meet the apostles in Jerusalem.
- Acts 9:39—When Dorcas died, we learned a lot about her kindness and the kindness of her friends.
- Romans 14:1—Paul wrote: “Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not disputes over doubtful things.”
- Romans 15:1—Paul wrote: “We then (who are strong) ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”
- Philippians 2:19-22—Paul publicly acknowledged the caring heart of Timothy.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8—The goal of Paul was to treat the brethren with the loving approach of a nursing mother toward her own children.
- 2 Timothy 1:16-18—When Paul was imprisoned in Rome, Onesiphorus traveled all the way from Ephesus to Rome to encourage Paul.