

October 14, 2012



Intimacy signifies a sense of closeness based on something in common. This can also mean that we can find intimacy in hate. The bible cites two examples where people were united because of hate: Mark 3:6 and Luke 23:12. In both examples, we see different groups of people connived together for one purpose — to kill Jesus. The Pharisees, the Sadducees and the Herodians did not get along, but they all had one purpose on their mind to destroy Jesus and because of this common ground, they became united.

But what is HATE? Hate means to detest something, to dislike something and not want it around you. The bible tells us that the Lord hates unrighteousness and wickedness. (Psalms 5:4; Psalms 45:6-7) Those who are intimate with the Lord have this in common with Him. . . This is how we can foster intimacy with Him — to uphold righteousness and HATE wickedness in our lives. Proverbs 8:13 says “*the fear of the Lord is to hate evil, pride and arrogance and the evil way*”.

Similar to the Pharisees, Sadducees and Herodians — we too must be united with God in declaring our hatred for anything unrighteous, unjust and wicked — anything evil, anything that has to do with self pride, arrogance, vanity — anything that is of the flesh and not of God. This is how declare we are Christians, this is what sets us apart. But the sad truth is, that often times, we who call our selves children of God are prone to make compromises. A clear example of this is in divorce. God says in Malachi 2:16 “*for I hate divorce, says the Lord, the God of Israel*” and yet statistics show us that there is almost no difference in the number of couples who divorce between believers and unbelievers. This is the sad truth, when we live our lives in compromise — what then becomes of our testimony to those who are still unbelievers?

The reality is clearly stated in Galatians 5:17 *The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.*

Inherent in us is our sinful nature and often times it directs us to do evil, to sin. Whereas the Spirit of God within us pushes us to do the opposite. This is the constant struggle in us and if we are not aware of this, we can fall into the trap of compromising. Because in order to “give in” to what our flesh craves, we tend to justify and intellectualize our actions. We end up choosing and just picking out the sins that we hate, and then create another level for the sins that are acceptable to us, in essence giving ourselves a license to sin. Paul admonishes us in Galatians 5:1 “*It was for freedom that Christ set us free, therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery.*” This is a reminder to us that Jesus had broken the hold of sin over us, and given us the Holy Spirit to direct us so that we would live in freedom with a life that is pleasing to Him, but when we allow ourselves to compromise, we forfeit that freedom.



380 S. Rosemead Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107

Sundays
945 AM
Heart
Preparation

1000 AM
WORSHIP

Dgroup Schedules

Tuesdays
700 pm
1102 E Swanee Lane
West Covina, CA

Thursdays
730 pm
2617 N Parish Place
Burbank, CA

Fridays
700 pm
5124 Ashworth St
Lakewood, CA

Fridays
730 PM
4706 Ivar Ave
Rosemead, CA

So how then do we overcome this sinful nature?

We must surrender our sinful nature to God. But this transformation does not happen overnight — it happens with the continuing and uninterrupted work of the Holy Spirit with us as He transforms us into what God wants us to become. This is affirmed in Galatians 5:16 when Paul says “walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.”

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Galatians 5:17

How does this work?

When we come to the Lord for confession, we should be specific with what particular sins we want Him to take care of in our life. When we become specific with identifying our sins, then we become more aware of them and the Holy Spirit can convict us and work in us as we surrender to Him in whatever areas of our lives that we are quick to fall into temptation in. Also in being specific with our confessions, help us identify the target areas where we have to constantly be aware of what God is teaching us and dealing with us on. But this is only possible if we have an intimate relationship with the Father, if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior, and if we have surrendered our lives to be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

There are six things which the Lord hates,
Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:
Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
And hands that shed innocent blood,
A heart that devises wicked plans,
Feet that run rapidly to evil,
A false witness who utters lies,
And one who spreads strife among brothers.

Here in Proverbs 6, we see 7 sins that God specifically mentioned that He detests.

1. Haughty Eyes

1 Timothy 3:16

“and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.”

- * The very first sin was the sin of pride and vanity. This is described in Ezekiel 28:15;17
- * PROBLEM: PRIDE
- * SOLUTION: HUMILITY
- * In Matthew 18:4 Jesus tells us that *“Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*
- * For us to be able to overcome the sin of pride, we must run like little children into the arms of the Father and yield to the power of deliverance of God. This in essence is dying to oneself, giving up our rights and allowing the Father to use us and work through us.

2. Lying Tongue

Amos 5:21-23

“I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps.”

- * PROBLEM: LYING TONGUE
- * SOLUTION: INTEGRITY
- * This does not refer to the obvious lies, but the subtle ones.
- * A concrete example is on how we worship the Lord. Do we praise God in the same tongue that we use to curse others? When we come to church and worship, are we completely committed to His presence, or are we preoccupied with something else?
- * King David committed adultery, he sinned before God. But when confronted with his sin, he broke down in admission and accepted the responsibility for the consequences of his actions. When God took away his baby, he was not embittered instead, he worshipped the Lord. He did not point fingers and put the blame on someone else, rather he admitted his sin, confessed his sin, entrusted his life to God and accepted the consequences of his actions. (1 Kings 9:4)

3. hands that shed innocent blood

- * PROBLEM: hands that shed innocent blood
- * SOLUTION: DEFEND THE DEFENSLESS (James 1:27)
- * It is not our job to help everybody, but we have to be aware of the injustice around us and continually ask God to make us sensitive to those whom He wants us to help.

4. the heart that devises wicked plans

- * SOLUTION: PROACTIVELY CHOOSE TO DO GOOD (Galatians 6:10) *So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*
- * Let us try to make it a habit that when we wake up each morning, we consciously and intentionally choose to do good. Let us not allow things to just happen, rather let us ask God "Lord what do You want me to do for You today?"

5. feet that run rapidly to evil

- * SOLUTION: IMMEDIATE OBEDIENCE (1 Samuel 15:22)
- * When faced with a situation that we are tempted to sin, let us be conscious and intentionally choose to obey. Sometimes we have good intentions, but our actions say otherwise — as in forgiveness. It is hard to forgive, and often we tend to wait for the "feeling" to come before we can forgive. But God commands us to forgive. So this means that we have to obey first and forgive and eventually the feeling will come.

6. false witness who utter lies

- * SOLUTION: JUSTICE
- * There should be no favoritism. We should be able to treat everyone equally. (1 Timothy 5:21 and James 3:17)

7. one who spreads strife among brothers

- * SOLUTION: PEACE
- * Let us no be the ones to cast the first stone,

Discussion:

1. Are there sins in your life that you have accepted?
2. Do you hate what God hates? Or are you selectively choosing what to hate?
3. If you are able to ask God to make you hate something about you or your life now — what would it be?

Works

Fill out the table:

SIN	SOLUTION	BIBLE VERSE	SURRENDERED?	COMMITMENT
pride	humility	Proverbs 22:4	yes	I commit to ...

Ask the Lord to bring to your mind the sins that you are still hanging on to in your life. Honestly complete the table and ask God to grant you the grace to be able to surrender control of your life over to the Spirit so that you can be transformed into what God has planned for you.