

The 7 Things God Hates
One Who Sows Discord Among Brothers: Protecting the Unity Where God Commands
Blessing

Dr. John Carmichael

[Pro 6:16-19 NASB95] 16 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17 Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, 19 A false witness [who] utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

- Notice how this list ends. It does not end with pride. It does not end with lying. It ends with discord among brothers.
- Why? Because the enemy's greatest strategy against God's people is not persecution. It is division.
- Persecution often strengthens the church. Division weakens it from within.
- This sin is different from the others in the list because it is corporate. It damages the very thing God is building: His people.
- The enemy knows something many Christians forget: Unity is the infrastructure of revival. Where unity exists, the presence of God rests. Where discord spreads, the presence of God withdraws.
- This is why Scripture says God hates the sowing of discord.

Why is discord so bad and unity so good?

Here are five truths about discord vs unity.

I. UNITY IS HOW TO ACCOMPLISH THINGS FOR GOD

- a. [Jhn 17:21-23 NASB95] 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, [are] in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.
- b. Jesus prayed for unity right before the cross.
- c. He understood something vital: Unity is evangelistic. When believers live in genuine unity, the world sees evidence of Christ.
- d. [Gen 11:1-9 NASB95] 1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. 2 It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn [them] thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. 4 They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top [will reach] into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." 5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. 6 The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. 7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech." 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.

The 7 Things God Hates
One Who Sows Discord Among Brothers: Protecting the Unity Where God Commands
Blessing

Dr. John Carmichael

- e. These ungodly people were going to be successful because they were unified.
- f. Application: Protect relationships within the church. Refuse to entertain divisive conversations. Pray for unity regularly within the body.

II. DISCORD IS A WORK OF THE FLESH

- a. [Gal 5:19-21 NASB95] 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- b. Division is not just personality conflict. It is listed among the works of the flesh.
- c. Discord rarely begins publicly. It begins privately in conversations, assumptions, and offended hearts.
- d. [Jas 3:16 NASB95] 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.
- e. Discord repels the manifest presence of God. The Spirit moves where humility and love govern relationships.
- f. Application: Address offenses quickly. Choose reconciliation over resentment. Refuse to spread negativity about others.

III. THE SPIRIT OF ABSALOM DESTROYS FROM WITHIN

- a. [2Sa 15:2-6 NASB95] 2 Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way to the gate; and when any man had a suit to come to the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And he would say, "Your servant is from one of the tribes of Israel." 3 Then Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but no man listens to you on the part of the king." 4 Moreover, Absalom would say, "Oh that one would appoint me judge in the land, then every man who has any suit or cause could come to me and I would give him justice." 5 And when a man came near to prostrate himself before him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him. 6 In this manner Absalom dealt with all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel.
- b. Absalom never attacked David publicly at first. He undermined him privately.
- c. He positioned himself at the gate and said: "If I were king... things would be better."
- d. He: Criticized leadership. Gained sympathy. Created doubt. Stole hearts. This is how discord spreads.
- e. [Rom 16:17 NASB95] 17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.
- f. Discord is often intentional and hidden. It whispers rather than shouts.
- g. Application: Guard your heart against bitterness. Refuse to participate in leadership criticism that breeds division. Bring concerns directly, not indirectly.

IV. UNITY REQUIRES WORK AND COMMITMENT

- a. [Eph 4:3 NASB95] 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- b. Unity must be protected intentionally.
- c. [1Co 1:10 NASB95] 10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.
- d. Revival is fragile. It can be extinguished not by demons but by division.

The 7 Things God Hates

One Who Sows Discord Among Brothers: Protecting the Unity Where God Commands Blessing

Dr. John Carmichael

- e. Application: Speak words that build, not divide. Encourage others in the body. Promote peace whenever possible.

V. GOD COMMANDS BLESSING WHERE UNITY LIVES

- a. [Psa 133:3 NASB95] 3 It is like the dew of Hermon Coming down upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing life forever.
 - b. Unity is not just pleasant. It is powerful.
 - c. Where unity exists: blessing flows, presence increases, prayer strengthens, mission advances.
 - d. When the church protects unity, the Spirit releases greater glory.
 - e. Application: Pray for your church regularly. Celebrate others' successes. Choose humility over personal preference.
-
- **Unity invites the manifest presence of God, but discord sabotages what the Spirit is building among His people.**
 - **Unity is not uniformity. It is love stronger than disagreement.**
 - **And where brothers and sisters dwell in unity God commands blessing.**