

Sacred Pursuit 4:

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<p>Simple Unexpected Concrete Credible Emotional Stories</p>
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(ME-WE-GOD-YOU-WE) (Orientation-Identification-Illumination-Application-Inspiration)

What do I want them to know? Why do I want them to know it?

What do I want them to do? Why do I want them to do it?

How can I say an old truth in a new way?

If this teaching is hard, how am I being redemptive?

INTRO: We are looking at the book of Proverbs in Sacred Pursuit. The ultimate pursuit is Wisdom. Wisdom then leads to wise choices in all the other areas of life.

1 – Pursuit of Wisdom: The Pursuit of Wisdom should be one of our Highest Pursuits

2 – Living Blindfolded: The Consequences of Tomorrow are Determined by the Choices of Today

3 – Injustice: A Heart Like God's Cares about Injustice, and Acts on it.

ME:

How often to you use the word 'hate'??

- "I hate it when he/she _____"
- "I hate it when people don't use their turn signal!"
- "I hate it when someone lies to me."
- "I hate when people sleep through my sermon." ☺
- "I hate when I hear about a young single mom choosing abortion."

WE:

Things we all hate:

- When people ignore us and don't listen
- When people think only of themselves (self-centeredness)
- Ungratefulness
- Feeling helpless
- Seeing people get hurt
- Abuse (of all kinds)
- Being manipulated, taken advantage of
- Injustice

How do these things make you feel? They kind of twists your gut and stirs up all kinds of emotions inside.

Yet, sometimes we don't hate the things that we should. Why is that?? In our culture, we have become desensitized...

GOD:

Have you ever wondered if God is capable of these same kinds of feelings? If He made us in His image, then it certainly stands to reason that he might share the same emotional capacities that He gave us.

- Then you might say, well if there is something that God hates, I'd sure like to know what it is so that I can avoid it at all costs!!!

The Bible actually tells us what some of those things are for God. And you might actually be surprised to find out what they are!!

READ Prov. 6:16-18

We could go into detail about each one of these seven things that Solomon lists here in Prov. 6. But that would be a 7-part teaching series. Not tonight. BUT, what we can find tonight is the common thread behind all seven, which gives us another glimpse into the heart of God...

- "My son" starts every part of Pr. 3-7! As if Solomon is sitting down with his sons and saying "listen, this is what I've learned in my life, that I'd rather prevent you from having to learn the hard way."

YOU:

WE:

What is the bottom line?? Common to all of these things:

- Each of these either hurts someone or mars the image of God in someone – don't mess with God's stuff!!
 - A marring of the image of God
 - They all hurt other people, who are made in His image
 - All detract/disgrace the image of God in the doer
 - They discount God's Creation
 - Rob the value from His creative genius
 - Harm His prized possessions
- **Why would God hate that?** B/c it is His creation that you are messing with! His masterpiece! His crowning creative achievement!! Read Ps. 139 sometime. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. And He is a proud artist. He gave his best energies to making you and me. It harms his prized possessions, the crown jewels.

READ Ps. 139:13-18

- **Have you ever considered how precious you are to your Creator??** Probably, on occasion, you have.
- **BUT, have you ever considered how precious others are to Him???** That person that annoys you. The person you deceived, manipulated, tricked, white lied to,...

Big Idea: We need to value what God values. (how you see/accept others)

How is it that we de-value the things that God values:

- When we write someone off as having no valuable thing to contribute
- When we ignore someone b/c they aren't like us
- When we mistreat another person b/c we are frustrated with them or annoyed
- Interesting that the very center of the Gospel is the fact that Jesus thought we were worth dying for.

So How do I Value People? How do I change the way I look at others?

1. Focus on the value of people (their intrinsic worth)
2. Remember that people matter to God,
3. Remind yourself that everyone is made in His Image!
 - a. Their value is not determined by what they say or do, but it is based on the simple fact that God's Image resides in them.
 - b. But God, you say they have your image, but I ain't seein it!!
4. Answer the question: How do I want to be/feel valued?

Human Body Facts:

Awesome:

- One square inch of skin: 19,000,000 skin cells, 20' blood vessels, 32M bacteria
- Every hour one billion cells in the body will be replaced.
- The human body has approximately 37,000 miles of capillaries.
- The eye of a human can distinguish 500 shades of the gray, and will blink 10Mx/yr.
- The human liver performs over 500 functions. "When was the last time you thanked God for the 499 functions of your liver to remove toxins from your body??"
- In one day your heart beats 100,000 times. That's 35 million a year, 2.5B a lifetime!! In a lifetime, the heart pumps about one million barrels of blood.
 - Can any car engine do that? Any of man's creations???

Odd:

- The human body makes anywhere from 1 to 3 pints of saliva every 24 hours.
- The highest recorded speed of a sneeze is 165 km per hour.
- Once a human reaches the age of 35, he/she will start losing approximately 7,000 brain cells a day. The cells will never be replaced. (age cap for 4D!!)
- The human heart can create enough pressure that it could squirt blood at a distance of thirty feet.

Final:

- The human body is 75% water (also 75% of the earth). – and He does all of this mostly with water!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Your brain is 80% water. Amazing what God can do with water!!
(LL) what can you make with water? Ice,...

NOTES on the Passage:

- Suggested in Pradis that these characteristics are so taboo b/c they deny the divine element (image of God) in humanity.

- What does Scripture mean when it uses the word 'hate'? - often used as a term of comparison
 - Jesus talking about being his disciple – Luke 14:26 – a comparison
 - Rom. 9:13 – “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
 - Detestable to him: (KJV-abomination) – a disgusting thing
 - Hate – may be the strongest word in the English language, b/c it is the antithesis of Love, and God is Love. So it is the opposite of what He stands for. Yet, the Bible says that He is capable of this emotion.
 - Occurs 87x in bible
- Verse 16 uses what is known as a numerical ladder, paralleling "six things" with "seven things"
- Is it possible that the Beatitudes give the positive converse of each of these? 7 blessings
 - In fact, all of these things listed here are repeated many times over in Scripture.
- 1. Haughty Eyes (vs. Poor in Spirit) – refers to a 'proud look' – suggesting arrogant ambition) – speaks primarily of pridefulness of heart
 - a. Also, greed, envy, avarice
- 2. Lying tongue (tongue of deception) – deception in speech is harmful to others
 - a. Dishonesty – which is the ultimate perversion of Truth, which is a very high priority to God!!
 - (ILL) – false prophets in Jeremiah 14:14
 - b. ^{Pr 26:28} A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.
- 3. Hands that shed innocent blood – abomination b/c it destroys a person who contains God's image
 - a. Injustice – which we talked about last week.
 - b. Abortion
- 4. Heart that devises wicked schemes – speaks of deceit at the deepest level of a human
 - a. Manipulation – sneaky, crafty
- 5. Feet that are quick to rush into evil – this speaks of the enthusiastic and complete involvement in activities that harm others
 - a. Folly, foolishness
- 6. A false witness who pours out lies – a direct violation of the Decalogue
 - a. Truth perversion, repeated from #2 – shows its importance!!
- 7. A man who stirs up dissension (vs. Peacemakers) – condemns contentious, quarreling people
 - a. Disunifier -
 - b. God loves when brothers dwell together in unity

Pradis: These things, then, God will not tolerate. If he hates these things, then conversely he must love and desire (1) humility, (2) truthful speech, (3) preservation of life, (4) pure thoughts, (5) eagerness to do good things, (6) honest witnesses, and (7) peaceful harmony.

REMOVED:

- The feet have approximately 250,000 sweat glands.
- The human brain has about 100,000,000,000 (100 billion) neurons.