

GRACE GAZETTE

Volume I

Issue 7

Published occasionally for Zion's mourners

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees. And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Hebrews 12:12-13

A FOUL ODOR

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. Proverbs 6:16-19

The word abomination means something that is detestable or repulsive. I can think of few things that are more detestable than something that smell putrid or rotten. When we encounter such an odor we generally turn our heads and if it is bad enough we might even walk away from it. Our facial expressions register disgust and our actions indicate that we are extremely displeased. Such is the way the Solomon describes the LORD'S consideration of these particular sins. Now the scripture is plain the GOD hates all sin. "*Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity*" (Hab. 1:13) "*For thou art not a GOD that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.*" (Ps. 5:4,5). Yet these particular sins are so detestable in the LORD'S sight that they are called an "abomination" or foul odor unto HIM.

As the sons of GOD we know that the definition of sin is not simply the actual committing of an action in our fleshly bodies but, also, and even more importantly the contemplation of these actions in our minds. The LORD JESUS said "*But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*" (Mt. 5:28) It would do us well to be acquainted with these activities which are so reprehensible in our LORD'S sight, that we might avoid these pitfalls at all cost. Paul said "*I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (a reject or a reprobate).*" (I Cor. 9:27) What are these extremely disgusting sins?

A proud look. When we are lifted up in our own minds and consider that the things we possess or have become are the result of our own endeavor. Paul said "*For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*" (I Cor. 4:7) Remember the rich man in Luke 12:16-21)

A lying tongue. A lying tongue often follows a proud look. If we cannot honestly examine our ourselves we are apt to speak words which are hurtful and destructive. Most lies begin with our desire to impress others. Whether it is in a quest to build ourselves up in the eyes of others or to gain for ourselves a following. "*There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies.*" (II Pet. 2:1) When we depart from truth we are surely on the pathway that leads to destruction.

Hands that shed innocent blood. All men deserve to die because all have sinned (see Eze. 18:20) yet murder is forbidden in the ten commandments. It is not the taking of human life that is hated by GOD, but the slaying of the innocent is that which is a foul odor in HIS sight. Some people by their actions deserve to die immediately. Those who have murdered, raped, broken into homes with intent to harm the occupants, sought to unjustly overthrow governments, or in general have no regard for the lives of others fall into this category. But even the act of hatred

against others who are not in this group is the same as murder. *"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."*(Mt.5:44)

A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations. The thought of man's heart is often on sin and iniquity waits closely to spread its snares upon us. Yet when we dwell on these sinful thoughts and devise plans whereby we can carry them out we are acting in a very odious way before GOD. *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man,".but (GOD) will with the temptation also make a way to escape"* (I Cor. 10:13) *"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."* (Rom. 5:12)

Feet that are swift to run to mischief. If entertaining thoughts of sin are odious before GOD then the actual committing of those acts is even worse. We are to be circumspect and analyze everything we do. Anger often causes men to act swiftly without taking due time for consideration. *"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city"* (Prov. 16:32) *"He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly"* (Prov. 14:17)

A false witness that speaketh lies. As bad as telling lies to benefit ourselves is (see second point), telling lies that harm others is even worse. Gossiping and talking behind someone's back is bad enough, and ought not to be done by GOD'S people, even when there is truth to the allegations that are told, but to tell untruths about someone else in order to injure that person's reputation is the same as murder. *"A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish."* (Prov.19:9)

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