

Sowers Of Discord

Proverbs 6:18b-19

Introduction: The goal of every Christian ought to be to seek and promote the kind of unity addressed in *Psalms 133:1*. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. There are those among God's people who will work in a counter direction and be actively involved in the business of beings sowers of discord. Please notice as we look at these three things that each one is a pre-meditated act, a conscious decision to be a divider rather than a uniter.

I. A Progress That Leads To Division.

A. *"Feet that are swift in running to evil."*

1. Quickly and energetically carrying out what has been devised in the heart (*v. 18a*).
2. When I worked at the gypsum plant I noticed that those who would drag in at the last minute to work would just about run over you at quitting time in order to get to the bar!
3. Have you ever been asked to keep a secret and couldn't wait to tell it?
4. Some people run to evil because they love it (*Micah 3:2; Matt. 6:21; Jn. 3:19*).

B. *"A false witness who speaks lies."*

1. We have already seen that God hates a lying tongue (*v. 17*).
2. This is different as it is a deliberate attempt to pervert justice, perhaps through collusion (*Ex. 20:16*).
3. Two examples:
 - a. Those Jezebel needed a certain kind of person to bear false witness—*"scoundrels"* (*1 Kgs. 21:11-14*).
 - b. Those who bore false witness against our Lord (*Matt. 26:59-61*).
4. Collusion, in that it takes two. Even the principle of *"by the mouth of two or three witnesses"* (*Deut. 17:6; 2 Cor. 13:1; et al*) is followed for false witnesses.
5. You say you heard someone say something they didn't say, or saw someone do something they didn't do, that such is false witness—and you convince someone to back you up.

C. *"And one who sows discord among brethren."*

1. It is one who sows.
 - a. It is a deliberate act.
 - b. It is at the beginning.
 - c. Fruit of seeds of discord is strife, dissension, and division (*1 Cor. 3:1-3*).
2. Some "seeds" of discord.
 - a. *"Therefore laying aside all malice, all deceit {guile}, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking"* (*1 Peter 2:1*).
 - 1) Malice—malignity, evil habit of mind.
 - 2) Deceit—craftiness, subtlety, fraud.
 - 3) Hypocrisy—Playing like you are something you are not.

- 4) Envy—feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others.
- 5) Evil speaking—gossip, slander, innuendo, backbiting.
- b. **“Meddlers in other men’s matters” (1 Peter 4:15, ASV).**
 - 1) Literally “an overseer of another’s goods.”
 - 2) May mean someone who pries into personal matters, an agitator.
 - 3) It is a warning not to go overboard.
 - 4) No one has the right to know the details of all anyone else does.

II. Antidote.

- A. Our attitude should be that we **“abhor what is evil; cling to what is good”** (**Rom. 12:9**). [“Abhor”- to regard with horror or loathing; to reject vehemently; shun.]
- B. Be willing to give the benefit of doubt (**1 Cor. 13:7**).
- C. Be sure it is true (**James 1:19**).
- D. Be a builder, not a divider (**Rom. 14:19**).

Conclusion: If a church becomes filled with strife, the number one reason could be because they do not reject sinful strivings and the men who cause them! Let it be said of us all that we did our share in the quest of unity and let none of us be a part of that which God is said to hate.