

Proverbs 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Analysis

A false witness speaking lies and sowing discord among brethren conclude the abominations list. Both violate the ninth commandment and destroy community. False witness corrupts justice; sowing discord corrupts fellowship. That the list ends with sins against community suggests covenant community's importance. Individual piety must include communal responsibility - loving God requires loving neighbor.

Historical Context

Concludes seven abominations (vv.16-19) with sins destroying covenant community. Ancient Israel's justice system and social cohesion depended on truthful witness and brotherly unity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How are you contributing to unity versus sowing discord in your faith community?

2. What makes you vulnerable to bearing false witness through slander or gossip?

Interlinear Text

יֵּדְבָר	כִּזְבוֹת	עֵד	שֶׁקֶר	וּמַשִּׁילֵהוּ	מְדִנֵּה	יָיִן
that speaketh	lies	witness	A false	and he that soweth	discord	H996
H6315	H3577	H5707	H8267	H7971	H4090	
אֲחֵיהֶם:						
among brethren						
H251						

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 19:5 (Witness): A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

Proverbs 6:14 (Parallel theme): Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

Proverbs 19:9 (Witness): A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

James 3:18 (Parallel theme): And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Psalms 27:12 (Witness): Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

Proverbs 25:18 (Witness): A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Proverbs 26:20 (Parallel theme): Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

Proverbs 22:10 (Parallel theme): Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

