

Proverbs 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Analysis

Wisdom continues speaking: 'The fear of the LORD is to hate evil.' This verse defines fearing God not as terror but as moral alignment with His character—hating what He hates. The list that follows specifies: 'pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.' Pride and arrogancy represent self-exaltation; the 'evil way' is the path of wickedness; 'froward mouth' refers to perverse, twisted speech. True fear of God produces moral revulsion toward sin, especially the pride that elevates self above God. This verse links theology (fearing God) with ethics (hating evil), showing that right worship produces right living.

Historical Context

The prophets consistently condemned Israel's tolerance of evil while maintaining outward worship. Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah all emphasized that true fear of Yahweh must manifest in ethical living and hatred of injustice. This proverb anticipates that prophetic message, establishing that authentic worship includes moral transformation.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you genuinely hate the sins listed here (pride, arrogance, evil, perverse speech), or do you tolerate them in yourself?
2. How does growing in the fear of the LORD increase your sensitivity to and hatred of sin?

Interlinear Text

יִרְאֵת	יְהוָה	שָׂנְאֵתִי	כִּעַ	גִּזְאָה	וְגִזְאוֹן	דֶּרֶךְ
The fear	of the LORD	do I hate	and the evil	pride	and arrogancy	way
H3374	H3068	H8130	H7451	H1344	H1347	H1870
כִּעַ	וּפִי	תְּהַפֹּךְ	וְאֵת	שָׂנְאֵתִי		
and the evil	mouth	and the froward	do I hate			
H7451	H6310	H8419	H8130			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 2:3 (References Lord): Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

Psalms 97:10 (Evil): Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 16:6 (Evil): By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

Proverbs 4:24 (Parallel theme): Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 (Evil): Abstain from all appearance of evil.

1 Peter 5:5 (Parallel theme): Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Psalms 119:128 (Parallel theme): Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

Proverbs 6:12 (Evil): A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

Proverbs 16:18 (Parallel theme): Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Amos 5:15 (Evil): Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

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