



January 7, 2018
Proverbs Part 6
“Proverbs: Vices”
Pastor Gary Hamrick

In the sixth message in his series in Proverbs, Pastor Gary addresses the topic of vices. In the Bible, vices are actually considered to be sins, because they are things we should either avoid or get rid of, if they are present in our lives. The book of Proverbs has something to say about a number of vices, and Pastor Gary teaches on four in today’s message: envy, drunkenness, revenge, and anger.

Vice

1. A basic understanding of vice is that it can be seen as a moral fault or failing; a weakness of character or behavior; or a bad habit.
2. There are a number of different vices mentioned in the book of Proverbs, including the following: envy, greed, drunkenness, gluttony, laziness, quarreling, pride, stubbornness, stealing, anger, revenge, and foolishness.

Envy

3. Pastor Gary said: “[First], we need to define the difference between envy and jealousy. You might be intrigued to know that in the Bible, jealousy [isn’t] condemned [as much] as envy. Some types of jealousy [are] condemned in Scripture, but the Bible is kind of silent on the topic of jealousy, in large part, [and] there are only a couple of references to [jealousy] as a bad character trait, in large part because jealousy often has an element of protection about it, which makes it not always a bad thing. Whereas envy has an element of covetousness, which is always a bad thing... The Bible actually refers to God as being jealous... God is not jealous of anyone or anything; he is jealous for, and that’s the big difference, because it has [a] connotation of protection.”

- a. [Deuteronomy 4:24](#) - *“For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”*
 - b. [Zechariah 8:2](#) - *“This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Zion [Israel or God’s people]; I am burning with jealousy for her.’ ”*
 - c. [2 Corinthians 11: 2](#) - *“I am jealous for you [the church and the Christians in Corinth] with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.”*
4. Pastor Gary said: “Envy is condemned throughout the Bible because envy is about wanting to have what someone has or wishing to be who someone is. ... Satan rebelled against God... because he wanted to be God. ... [Satan] envied God, and for that reason pride filled his heart, and he was expelled from heaven. ... Adam and Eve envied God, because they believed a lie from Satan, that God was holding back on them, and that God actually had a lot more in store from them. ... The first murder in the Bible was the result of envy. Cain murdered his brother, Abel, because he envied Abel. He envied Abel’s offering to God. He envied Abel’s relationship with God. And, envy taken to its full extreme, in that case, resulted in murder.”
- a. [Mark 7:21-23](#) - *“For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’ ”*
 - b. [James 3:16](#) - *“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”*
 - c. [Galatians 5:19-21](#) - *“The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*
5. [Proverbs 14:30](#) - *“A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.”*
- a. Envy takes a physical toll on the mind and the body.
6. [Proverbs 23:17](#) - *“Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.”*
7. [Ephesians 1:3](#) - *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”*
- a. The remedy to envy, is to have our identity in Jesus Christ, and to remember all that Christ has done to bless us!

8. Pastor Gary said: “When we get our identity in him and when we rest in the Lord, [it’s] then [that] we don’t have to go around and envy. ... Stop the wish lists and settle your [heart], resting in Christ.”

Drunkenness

9. Pastor Gary said: “Most people know that the Bible doesn’t teach [that] drinking is the problem; drunkenness is [the problem]. Most people understand that the Bible doesn’t prohibit drinking alcohol. But that’s where it gets tricky, because who or what defines drunkenness? ... What defines drunkenness? Is it a slight buzz or is it drop-down, passed out, or is it 0.08% [blood alcohol] or 0.05% [blood alcohol] or is it 0.01% [blood alcohol]? This is the reason [why] some Christians [and others, too] have a self-imposed standard of [no] alcohol. The only sure way that you won’t get drunk is don’t drink.”
 - a. **1 Corinthians 6:12** – “ *‘Everything is permissible for me’ – but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible for me’ – but I will not be mastered by anything.’* ”
10. There are more than 230 references to alcohol in the Bible, and the vast majority of them are cautions about alcohol.
11. In the book of Proverbs there are 15 references to either wine or beer, and only one indicates that there’s anything good about either one.
 - a. **Proverbs 31:6–7** – “*Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish...*”
12. **Proverbs 20:1** – “*Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.*”
13. **Proverbs 23:20–21** – “*Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags.*”
14. **Proverbs 23:29–35** – “*Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. ‘They hit me,’ you will say, ‘but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?’* ”

Revenge

15. Pastor Gary said: “Don’t take [revenge], and don’t wish for it; let God settle the score.”
16. **Proverbs 24:29** – *“Do not say, ‘I’ll do to him as he has done to me; I’ll pay that man back for what he did.’”*
17. **Proverbs 24:17** – *“Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not let your heart rejoice.”*
18. **Romans 12:19** – *“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”*
19. **Proverbs 25:21–22** – *“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”*
 - a. Pastor Gary said: “The phrase ‘burning coals’ is an ancient expression that means Divine judgment. And what this proverb is saying to us is that [we should] kill [those who mistreat us or harmed us] with kindness.”
 - b. When we get out of the way, we allow God to bring his judgment upon the person or persons who have wronged us, and in so doing, we will be rewarded by the Lord!

Anger

20. Pastor Gary said: “Not all anger is sin.”
 - a. Jesus was angry in the Temple courts when he saw that people had turned God’s house into a flea market, so he made a whip and drove them out in an act of righteous indignation.
 - b. God was angry with the Israelites because of their sin, stubbornness, and rebellion.
 - c. God was angry when the Israelites grumbled, whined, and complained during their years of wandering in the wilderness.
 - i. **Numbers 11:1** – *“Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.”*
21. The good news is that God’s anger doesn’t last forever!
 - a. **Psalms 30:5** – *“For his anger lasts only for a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime...”*

22. Pastor Gary said: “By the way, God is a big God, and he can take your emotion. He can take my emotion. Anger itself is a normal emotion; it’s what we do with it that matters.”
23. [Ephesians 4:26-27](#) – “ *‘In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*”
24. Pastor Gary said: “If you don’t deal with your anger, Satan will capitalize on it and make things far worse for you, and that’s why it speaks about dealing with your anger before the sun goes down. [The Bible] is not saying that it must be within a literal 24-hours; it’s just saying, [make] sure you deal with it before another day goes by, because if you don’t deal with it, it can become something that is sinful and out of control. Some people don’t understand this and I want to make sure everybody realizes [that] there is explosive anger and implosive anger, and both are wrong. But the one that we chastise most is explosive anger, but implosive anger is just as dangerous, and sometimes even more so.”
25. [Proverbs 14:16-17](#) – “*A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless. A quick-tempered man does foolish things...*”
26. [Proverbs 29:22](#) – “*An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.*”
27. [Proverbs 29:11](#) – “*A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.*”

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Proverbs 20:1-4](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss the Scriptures and Pastor Gary’s remarks concerning the difference between envy and jealousy. (See #3 and #4 above)
3. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences or the experiences of others regarding the toll that envy takes. (See #5 above)
4. How has the Lord helped you avoid the temptation to “*envy sinners*”? (See #6 above)
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s remarks concerning what the Bible has to say about drunkenness. (See #9 above)

6. Read and discuss the Scriptures that caution against alcohol. (See #12 through #14 above)
7. Allow the people in your group to share their story about how the Lord helped them overcome alcohol addiction.
8. Read and discuss the Scriptures that provide a greater understanding of our need allow the Lord to deal with those who harm us. (See #16 through #19).
9. How has the Lord helped you when someone vented their anger on you?
10. How has the Lord helped you deal with anger in your life? (See #23 and #24 above)
11. Read and discuss the Scriptures that encourage us to avoid those people that the Bible labels as being hot-tempered, hotheaded, and out of control.
12. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).