

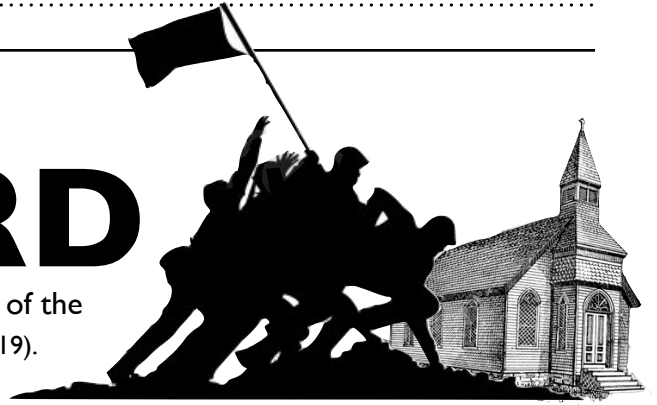


C. H. Spurgeon

**“Discord...goes among the righteous, blown by the winds of hell, and no one knows where it may end.”**

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 32 - August 25, 2014

# Sowing Discord Among The Brethren

*“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).*



### A Very Disgusting Thing!

Proverbs 6:17 says, *“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him.”* God then finishes His list adding *“...and he that soweth discord among brethren.”* The Bible says one who sows discord is, *“an abomination”* unto God. According to Strong’s concordance the word abomination here is, *“a disgusting thing.”* According to James 3:14,15 - the person who sows discord among God’s people is a bitter, envious, strife-filled, liar who is a confused, evil worker with a heart problem. Our Saviour said, *“of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh”* (Luke 6:45). Proverbs 28:25 says, *“He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife.”*

**God wants unity among His people.** Psalm 133:1 says *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”* Ephesians 4:3 commands us to be, *“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*

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## What Does The Bible Say?



*“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone.”*  
(Matthew 18:15)

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me.”*  
(Romans 15:30)

*“O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.”*  
(Psalm 34:3)

Continued from page one

One of the final things Christ did before leaving this world was to pray, “...that they may be one, even as we are one.” (John 17:22).

**The Tongue Can Destroy A Church**

**Discord will destroy a local church.** James 3:5 speaks of the tongue defiling “...the whole body.” Comparing Scripture with Scripture, we find Colossians 1:18 refers to “the body” as being “the local church.” Unity within a church will help the smallest church to thrive; however, discord within, will quickly destroy a small church and eventually the larger churches as well.



**"To Be Forewarned Is To Be Forearmed"**

Knowledge of imminent danger can prepare us to have the victory over it. In order for medicine to produce health, disease must be examined. In order to endeavour to keep the harmony we must investigate discord. **The purpose of this article is to investigate what the Word of God says about sowing discord.**



**Satan’s Greatest Tool Is Disgruntled Professed Christians**

Satan’s greatest tool to kill your church is to get any person he can use to kill the unity within the church. The church at Corinth is an example. First Corinthians 1:10 says, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...that there be no divisions among you...”

**The Trojan Horse**

As the story goes, after a fruitless ten-year siege, the Greeks constructed a huge wooden horse, and hid a select force of thirty men inside. The Greeks pretended to sail away, and the Trojans pulled the horse into their city as a victory trophy. That night the men crept out of the horse and opened the gates for the rest of the Greek army, which had sailed back under cover of night. The Greek army entered and destroyed the city of Troy.



**That is how Satan sets out to destroy a local church.** The victory must be won from within. He will have someone to sow discord within the church. Proverbs 16:28 says, he “...soweth strife: and...separateth chief friends.” Proverbs 6:14 says, “continually; he soweth discord.”

**Written For Our Admonition**

Concerning the Old Testament stories we read, “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (First Corinthians 10:11).

Moses did not have a local church in the wilderness; however he did have an assembly of people (Act 7:38).

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**C.H. Spurgeon**

*“Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation.”*

C.H. Spurgeon



**D.L. Moody**

*“I have never yet known the Spirit of God to work where the Lord’s people were divided.”*

D.L. Moody



*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”*

(Psalm 133:1)



*“Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”*

(Philippians 1:27)

Continued from page two

In Exodus 16:2 Satan had some individuals who started God’s people murmuring in their tents (They “murmured against Moses.” Exodus 15:24) and soon we find, “the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

**Korah And His Disgusting Followers Sowed Discord Among God’s People**

**In Numbers 16:1-3** we read, “Now Korah...and Dathan and Abiram...gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?”

**God was not slow to deal with these despicable people and those who listened to them.** Verses 20,21 tells us, “...the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.” Verses 32,33 says, “...the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and **their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.** They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.” Sower of discord be warned, it is a dangerous thing to have God disgusted with you. Listeners to those who sow discord be warned, God will also deal with you.

**Spiritual Sickness Is Contagious**

We can get sick physically when we are ignorant of the fact that someone we are in contact with has a contagious sickness. Spiritual sickness will also be transmitted the same way. He or she will pass their sickness to sow discord among the brethren on to whomever will listen and soon the listener will be sowing discord. It started in the story above with a few people murmuring in their tents and soon, “The whole congregation murmured against Moses and Aaron” (Exodus 16:2).



**The Destructive Power of The Words of A Sower of Discord**



A healthy church will soon become a sick church when God’s people are not aware of the destructive power of words. The Bible says, “A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.” (Proverbs 16:28). The Word of God repeats this important principle when it comes to listening to these sick people. Proverbs 17:9 says, “He that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.” Spiritually sick people are not happy unless they are sowing “strife.” When we fellowship with them we will catch what they have.

That is one reason we are commanded to “...mark them which cause divisions...and avoid them” (Romans 16:17). Note, that is not a suggestion, it is a command from God. He commanded us to “...mark them which cause divisions...and avoid them.”

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“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”  
(Amos 3:3)



“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me.”  
(Romans 15:30)



“O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.”  
(Psalm 34:3)



A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.”  
(Proverbs 16:28).

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**It Is A Heart Problem That Produces Discord**

There are scores of verses in the Bible that connect the mouth with the heart. Below are listed only a very few of them...

- **Psalm 12:2** - "...with flattering **lips** and with a double **heart** do they **speak**."
- **Proverb 4:23,24** - "Keep thy **heart** with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward **mouth**, and perverse **lips** put far from thee."
- **Proverbs 15:7** - "The **lips** of the wise disperse knowledge; but the **heart** of the foolish doeth not so."
- **Proverbs 15:14** - "The **heart** of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge; but the **mouth** of fools feedeth on foolishness."
- **Proverbs 15:28** - "The **heart** of the righteous studieth to answer: but the **mouth** of the wicked poureth out evil things."
- **Proverbs 17:20** - "He that hath a froward **heart** findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse **tongue** falleth into mischief."
- **Proverbs 24:2** - "For their **heart** studieth destruction, and their **lips** talk of mischief."
- **Proverbs 28:25** - "He that is of a proud **heart** stirreth up strife ..." **Jesus said**, "...an evil man out of the evil treasure of his **heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the **heart** his mouth **speaketh**." (Luke 6:45).

**Jesus said**, "...an evil man out of the evil treasure of his **heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the **heart** his mouth **speaketh**" (Luke 6:45).

Again, if we are ignorant of the depraved, evil nature of those who sow discord among the brethren we will be contaminated by their gossip as sure as we would be infected with any physical sickness that is contagious. **Romans 16:18** plainly tells us that "...they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; (the innermost part, the soul, the mind, will and emotions) and by **good words and fair speeches deceive** the hearts of the simple."



**Lying, Bitter, Envious People**

We are warned in Hebrews 12:15 warns us to be "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest **any root of bitterness** springing up trouble you, and thereby **many be defiled**;" (Hebrews 12:15). Also, people sow discord in the local church because they are envious. James 3:14 warns against "...bitter envying and strife in your hearts..." (James 3:14). Notice James says the "strife" in their hearts causes them to "lie against the truth." **Simply put, they are liars!** Verse sixteen continues, "For where envying and strife is there is confusion..." He also adds, "and every evil work."

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**The Sick Church**



We will soon have a sick church when we are not aware of the destructive power of words. The Bible says, "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends" (Proverbs 16:28).

People who sow discord among the brethren do it because they are bitter about something.

**Hebrews 12:15**

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."

When those who sow discord are allowed to run freely through the congregation, they tear down God-given leadership and they cause Christians to close their spirit to other Christians and cause unsaved people to reject Christ.

**Silent sowing is often the most deadly type of sowing. Body language is the process of communicating nonverbally through conscious or unconscious gestures.**

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**Listening To Those Who Sow Discord Among The Brethren Is Not A Light Thing With God.**



Again, I repeat without apology, that according to James chapter three, God sees any professed Christian who sows discord among the brethren as a *bitter, envious, strife-filled, liar* and a *confused, evil worker*. When we make friends with those people, we will catch their disease. We always become like the people we associate with. Again, and without apology for repeating it, we are commanded to “...mark them which cause divisions...and avoid them” (Romans 16:17).

**These Wicked Gossipers Have A Goal To Tear Down God-given Spiritual Leadership.**

As previously mentioned we read in Psalm 106:25 God’s people, “*Murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.*” (Moses was God’s spokesman at that time). We read they, “*murmured against Moses*” (Exodus 15:24) Their contagious disease infected others and we read, “*The whole congregation murmured against Moses and Aaron.*” (Exodus 16:2). How does God see it? Verse seven reveals their, “*murmurings against the Lord!*” Chapter 16:8 says, “*The Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him.*”



**The Listeners Were Judged With The Gossipers**

Exodus 17:8 says, “*Then came Amalek!*” The listeners were judged with the wicked people who were causing division. God holds those who listen to people who sow discord among the brethren equally responsible as the sower. The Word of God says, “*A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished*” (Proverbs 27:12).

**The Command Is Isolation**

God’s commands us not to listen to those who sow discord. Second Thessalonians 3:14 says we are to, “*Note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.*” The Bible commands us to “*Mark them which cause divisions and offences...*” (Romans 16:17). Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said, “*We command you.. that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly*” (Second Thessalonians 3:6).

When wicked gossipers are allowed to run freely through a church congregation, they tear down God-given leadership and they cause Christians to close their spirit to other Christians. They also produce more carriers of their spiritual sickness and cause unsaved people to reject Christ.

**Ecclesiastes 8:11 warns,** “*Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.*” Titus 1:11 warns us that their, “*mouths must be stopped.*”

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**A Return To Biblical Modesty**



**Daphne Kirkland**

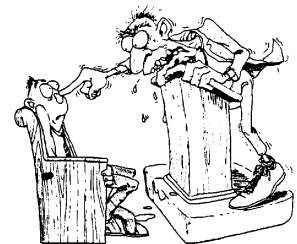
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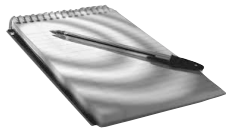
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**How The Sower of Discord Works**

**The first thing discord sowers usually do is test the spirit of the listener.** They will try to trick you into asking for the report. They will ask for your counsel. The Devil knows we all have an ego problem concerning our self-importance. The sick thing is, they really don't want your advice they simply want you to open up to their gossip.



**Having searched out details concerning their gossip they will offer inside information.** Again, the old nature loves to hear about bad things and loves even more to hear about it before others do, because it makes us feel important.



**How To Handle The Person Who Sows Discord**  
**Ask the following questions -**

- **Ask, what is your reason for telling me this?** Once you ask that question get a pad and pen and write down their answer.
- **Ask, where did you get your information?** Wait for the answer and write it down.
- **Ask, have you gone directly to those involved?** Wait for the answer and write it down.
  - Tell them, you have written down the details because you will be quoting them when you check out what they have told you.
  - Ask the sower of discord if he, *or more often than not she*, will sign what you have written on your pad.

**To do nothing is to allow the local church to be contaminated with the disease.** God warns, *“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”* (Ecclesiastes 8:11). James 3:6 says their wickedness, *“Defileth The Whole Body.”* Proverbs 26:27 says, *“The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”* Hebrews 12:15 says, *“Thereby many be defiled.”*

**Absalom**

**(A Bible Example - Second Samuel 2:15:1-6)**

**He Was Deliberate In His Discord**

**Verse 1** - *“And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.”*



**Discord Sowers Will Seek Out Disgruntled People To Join Forces With**

Continued on page seven

**The People Murmured**



*“They murmured in their tents.”*  
 (Deuteronomy 1:27)

*“The people murmured against Moses.”*  
 (Exodus 15:24)

*“The whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses.”*  
 (Exodus 16:2)

*“The people murmured against Moses.”*  
 (Exodus 17:3)

*“All the children of Israel murmured against Moses.”*  
 (Numbers 14:2)

*“All the children of Israel murmured against Moses.”*  
 (Numbers 16:41)

**God's Response**



*“How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which **they murmur against me.**”*  
 (Numbers 14:27)

*“Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which **have murmured against me.**”*  
 (Numbers 14:29)

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**Verse 2** - *“And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.”*

### **He Made Himself Available To His Disgruntled Listeners**

**Verse 3** - *“And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.”*

### **He Used His Position To Get His Followers**

**Verses 4,5** - *“Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! 5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.”*

### **He Stole The Hearts of The People**

**Verse 6** - *“And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.”*

### **Once a listener is infected with the disease he or she will begin forming negative thoughts about the person who is being maligned.**

The newly infected person will take words and actions of the person being maligned as supporting evidence of the gossip they have heard. He, or more often she, will begin judging motives as a result of the gossip and will back away from them in their spirit. You know you are infected with the disease when you find yourself repeating the gossip to others. You are mentally and emotionally controlled by the seeds that have been planted and the destructive spirit of the sower who sowed those seeds.

### **The Listener Is Wicked!**

**Proverbs 17:4** says, *“A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.”* **Maybe you better read that verse again!** God calls the one who listens to a person who sows discord a *“...wicked doer and a liar.”*

### **Why Is The Listener A Liar?**

**Proverbs 17:4** says, *“...a liar giveth ear...”* The dictionary says the word lie *“Is used with reference to a situation involving deception.”* First, to listen to the sower of discord is to give the sower the impression that you are in agreement unless you plainly tell him you are not going to listen to his wicked words. **Silence always gives consent.** If you do not consent and you remain silent God calls you a *“...wicked doer and a liar.”*

Second, The Bible says the sower of discord is sowing *“...among the brethren.”* You are deceiving the Christian who is doing the sowing or you are deceiving the

## **FairHavens Baptist Church**



Nearly twenty years ago I stopped at a little church in Sarnia, Ontario for the Sunday services. They were without a pastor. A preacher friend and I went out for supper on Saturday night and he spent most of the time trying to convince me to become the pastor of that church. I informed him in no uncertain terms that that was not going to happen.

Never say never! It is a long story, too long for this material; however, it was obviously God's will and before the weekend was over, I was the pastor of FairHavens Baptist Church in Sarnia.

FairHavens Baptist Church is a small church and probably always will be. Everything we stand for from morals to modesty is on our site. It chases more people away than it brings in; however, we will attempt to preach the whole counsel of God as we have opportunity.

### **Outreach**

As of the today (August 25, 2014) over 3,000 articles and sermons have been downloaded from our website by people around the world. Another 16,137 audio messages from the FairHavens pulpit have been downloaded to computers and another 6,618 downloaded to mobile units from [www.sermonaudio.com](http://www.sermonaudio.com).

We presently have a daily fifteen minute internet broadcast on our site. In the past four weeks 6,176 messages have been downloaded.

**To God Be The Glory  
Great Things He Is Doing!**

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Christian who is being maligned, if you do not take a solid stand against the sower of discord. Again, silence always gives consent.

The Bible is plain. Leviticus 19:16 says, *“Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people.”* It is a wicked thing to take part in his or her hateful deceit. Proverbs 26:24,25 says, *“He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; When he speaketh fair, believe him not; for there are seven abominations in his heart.”*

God calls the sower of discord a hater that, *“...dissembleth with his lips.”* To dissemble is to conceal one’s true motives. Our prayer should be *“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me...”* (Psalm 19:13).

**Pray For Deliverance From The Sickness You Have Come In Contact With**

Ask God to help you make Ephesians 4:29 a reality in your life. - *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”* Ask for help to live according to Proverbs 11:13 that says, *“A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.”*

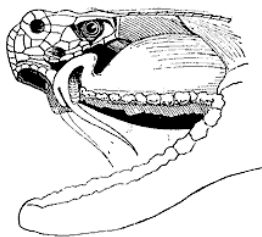
**Act On What You Have Heard**

Tell the wicked gossip you will be contacting the person who is spiritually responsible to handle the situation and **then do it**. These wicked people can only excel as they have someone to listen to them.

**Death And Life Are In The Tongue**

Proverbs 18:21 says, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”* Jeremiah spoke of *“treacherous”* people who *“bend their tongue like a bow.”* He continued warning us that no one should place their trust in the person who *“deceives”* and *“slanders.”* (Jeremiah 9:2-5).

Those who sow discord among the brethren usually slander the leadership under the guise of caring about the church. **Nothing could be farther from the truth.** They have hatred in their hearts and deceit in their mouths. Their actions are subtle, yet as deadly as bullets piercing the heart. Romans 3:13 refers to those who, *“...with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips.”*



*“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.”*  
(James 1:26)



**Point To Ponder**

We never sincerely pray for the people we gossip about. We might pray that they will come around to our point of view while shying away from really praying that God will bless them.

No one gossips about those who are doing nothing for God.

Gossipers are people who really know very little about you but always have the most to say

When you gossip about your pastor don't forget your best friend has a best friend, and your best friend's best friend also has a best friend. Eventually, someone's best friend is the pastor.

Gossip is a rumor that goes in one ear and out the mouth.

Remember when you are sowing discord - God is listening!

Sowing discord is one of the most heinous sins in the Bible