

SIX ENEMIES OF EVERY BELIEVER

Proverbs 27:1-8

1. Pride or arrogance:
Proverbs 27:1, 2, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."
A. Boasting of achievements.
B. Praising yourself in open or subtle ways.
2. Anger or uncontrolled temper:
Proverbs 27:3, "A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both."
A. The "stone" stands for the obvious type of anger, the explosive anger.
B. The "sand" speaks of a subtle type of anger.
3. Envy and jealousy:
Proverbs 27:4, "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?"
A. This is worse than loss of temper, according to this verse in context.
B. Ananias and Sapphira illustrated the green-eyed monster of jealousy.
4. Pseudo love:
Proverbs 27:5, 6, "Open rebuke is better than secret love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."
A. The "infatuated with Jesus" crowd is in love with love. It's like puppy love in the spring time, gushing over, very shallow, absolutely meaningless. This is the "glory, hallelujah" crowd.
B. Only the filling of the Holy Spirit produces love (AGAPE), and only maturity in the soul produces a total soul rapport of love (PHILOS).
5. Indifference to the Word of God:
Proverbs 27:7, "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."
A. The details of life are more important than the Word of God.
B. "Honey" is a perfect illustration of the Word of God, so get it at all costs.
6. A false scale of values:
Proverbs 27:8, "As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place."
A. He won't give up his social life to get the Word.
B. He won't go on a crash program of getting the Word of God.
C. Therefore he spends his time building a pseudo-maturity in the soul.

Of course, these six enemies of every believer are also occupational hazards of the so-called "Christian Workers." But all are in full-time Christian service, so the above is applicable to ALL believers.

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