

Over a period of time we learn what kind of behavior on our part causes other people to be happy or what kind of behavior on our part causes other people to be frustrated or angry. Today we're going to take a look at the feelings of God. The Bible teaches that God experiences the full range of emotions. In the Bible, you'll see that God experiences jealousy. God also feels sadness, anger, hurt, and this morning we're going to look at God's feelings of frustration. You don't have to read very far in the pages of the Bible to determine whether God gets frustrated or angry.

Some important points concerning the anger of God must be understood before we go any further, because a lot of people get very nervous when we talk about the wrath of God or the anger of God.

1. The Bible says repeatedly that our God is slow to anger.
2. God is quick to turn away from His anger and frustration—whenever one of His children repents.
3. God is never vindictive or irrational when He carries out discipline or chastisement.
4. God takes great pains to communicate to us exactly what it is, before the fact, that will cause Him to become frustrated or angry.

We're looking at a passage out of Proverbs 6:16-19 this morning where Solomon writes that there are 7 things, 7 ways to frustrate God. 7 ways. Then he lists them. This list is not intended to be exhaustive. There are many other ways to frustrate God. But this is one of the most graphic, compact passages, that I can do, that you can do, that we can do as a church, as His children to frustrate God.

We're told repeatedly in the Bible to find out what pleases the Lord. Mercy ought to characterize your life. Humility. Love. Forgiveness. Compassion. Patience. Unity in the Body ought to characterize our lives.

Here are the 7 ways we can frustrate God.

- 1) **FIRST**, he says HAUGHTY EYES. Those prideful looks of superiority.
- 2) He says, "You want to know what else God hates?" A LYING TONGUE.
- 3) Haughty eyes and lying lips and CRUEL HANDS. God has a heart to want to protect the weak, the poor and the marginalized in this world and when He sees some of us with cruel hands, it frustrates Him. "Cruel hands. They frustrate me. Because my hands through my Son Jesus Christ are nail-pierced and outstretched. Look at my hands," God says. "Look at them. Why would you who are the recipients of amazing grace have anything but compassionate hands?" And he tells us: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6)
- 4) Next, A SCHEMING HEART. A heart that devises wicked schemes. People plotting a way to destroy someone else's business, or reputation or character or ministry.
- 5) SHAMELESS FEET. This is feet that respond to the scheming of our hearts—some thing that you know is going to displease God, but you're going to do it.
- 6) A SLANDERING TONGUE. A false witness who pours out lies. Maybe you get together with some people to tear someone else apart. It involves gossip. I want to say as frankly as I can, if you have been spreading any kind of information that's cruel or hurtful about somebody else, you have frustrated God. You can turn his disgust into delight by going back and making it right.
- 7) Finally, God hates a CONTENTIOUS SPIRIT. A person who spreads or stirs up dissension among brothers and sisters. Remember the words of Jesus shortly before his death. He tells his disciples, "There is one sure way—there's only one sure way that we're going to be able to convince the whole world that I'm real and that there is a God! That's when we stay together in spirit, in unity, and in love."

You don't have to look very far to know how those in the world treat one another—the callous and self-serving attitudes. But in the family of God things are different. There's a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness, there is heartfelt worship, there ought to be a concern for the lost, we share a common Table, and it is all characterized by unity. Jesus said, "Love and unity among believers will be the unmistakable mark of my authenticity." So, in the face of statements like those how does God feel about a person who in a cavalier fashion spreads strife in the family of God? Oh, how a person like that frustrates God.

The word in the NT that is translated "devil" is "diabolo." (Same word as in the Spanish language.) Now, the prefix "dia" means "through." "Ballo," means "to throw." So "diabolo" is *to throw something through*. It's to throw something through, like an axe is thrown through a piece of wood, with the purpose of splitting it. Let me tell you something. "The Splitter" is always at work trying to use whatever means he can to divide, to bring about division, to separate that which ought to be unified.

One of the most surprising passages in the NT about church life is Titus 3:10 that says, "Give a divisive person, (a factious person), give a person like that a first and second warning, and then remove them from the fellowship."

If you have been engaged in anything that results in spreading division, at home, at church, or at work, you can turn God's frustration into delight by repenting this morning, saying, "Lord, I want to change my heart on this." God will be delighted. Take God seriously. Turn from these things. Repent. And God will flow His forgiveness and His grace your way.