

# Start the Day with Bishop Paul and Sarah

## **Bishop Paul**

Thank you for joining us this Friday morning, as we come to read verses from Proverbs 6 today, I'm sure like us many of you will have been deeply moved by the memorial service yesterday for George Floyd in Minneapolis. When we were reading over this chapter last night we were struck again by how God's word speaks so powerfully into the present moment.

## **Sarah**

Chapter 6 moves over a range of subjects, but they all relate to what values should underpin a just community in which every person can flourish in their work, finances and family life. So we're going to read from verse 12-19. They begin by reminding us just how subtle and subversive evil can be and then we are going to hear how God with all his being is against it.

## **Proverbs 6v12-19**

*"A trouble maker and a villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth,  
who winks maliciously with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers,  
who plots evil with deceit in his heart – he always stirs up conflict.  
Therefore disaster will overtake him in an instant; he will suddenly be destroyed – without remedy.*

*There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him;  
Haughty eyes,  
A lying tongue  
Hands that shed innocent blood,  
A heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil  
A false witness who pours out lies  
And a person who stirs up conflict in the community."*

## **Bishop Paul**

There is no beating round the bush in these verses, 16-19. If a society is to work then these are the things that should always be called out and never tolerated.

In light of the racial injustice we have seen displayed in all its ugliness again in the death of George Floyd, it is worth considering how different our world would be if we hated what God hates.

Notice hate is not the same thing as contempt. We can hate something without holding someone in contempt. It says in Romans 12:9 'Love must be sincere, hate what is evil, cling to what is good.' That includes hating what is systemic about racism, as well as horrendous personal acts of evil. This systemic racism sadly effects the church too and our own lives.

## **Sarah**

Verses 12-15 name the attitudes and habits that we may think are not doing any harm but which can be so destructive - it's a look, a gesture, a word that maligns - these things can be so subtle. And we need to watch for these things in ourselves because it's easy to look at what's happening in the US and the horrific way George Floyd died and think 'I would never do that, so this problem is not about me'. Yet we need to search our own hearts and get on

God's side when it comes to standing against evil. To hate what he hates and love what he loves.

**Prayer**

Dear Lord, we pray today for those who experience the alienation and oppression of racism. Lord, we ask you to shine your light on our hearts. Helps us to cling to what is good. We pray for your justice and we pray for the oppressed. May your will be done and your kingdom come. Amen.