

Understanding Abominations – Proverbs

INTRODUCTION – The word “abomination” occurs 152 times in the KJV in both the Old and New Testaments. [NOTE: The underlined emphasis in the Bible verses is added]

In the OT, the noun "abomination" comes from the Hebrew word "tho-'e-vah" which means something morally disgusting or an abhorrence like an idol. This word is used 117 times in the OT.

Another word for abomination is "pig-gul" which means something that “stinks or is fetid.” It occurs only four times in the OT.

- **Leviticus 7:18 (KJV)** And if *any* of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings be eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be imputed unto him that offereth it: it shall be an abomination, and the soul that eateth of it shall bear his iniquity.
- **Leviticus 19:7 (KJV)** And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it *is* abominable; it shall not be accepted.
- **Isaiah 65:4 (KJV)** Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels;
- **Ezekiel 4:14 (KJV)** Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! behold, my soul hath not been polluted: for from my youth up even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

Another word for abomination is the word "she-gets" which means "something filthy and pollutes" like an idolatrous object or unclean thing. It occurs 11 times in the OT.

- **Leviticus 7:21 (KJV)** Moreover the soul that shall touch any unclean *thing*, *as* the uncleanness of man, or *any* unclean beast, or any abominable unclean *thing*, and eat of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which *pertain* unto the LORD, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.
- **Leviticus 11:10 (KJV)** And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which *is* in the waters, they *shall be* an abomination unto you:
- **Leviticus 11:11 (KJV)** They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination.
- **Leviticus 11:12 (KJV)** Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that *shall be* an abomination unto you.
- **Leviticus 11:13 (KJV)** And these *are they which* ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten, they *are* an abomination: the eagle, and the ossifrage, and the ospray,
- **Leviticus 11:20 (KJV)** All fowls that creep, going upon *all* four, *shall be* an abomination unto you.

- **Leviticus 11:23 (KJV)** But all *other* flying creeping things, which have four feet, *shall be* an abomination unto you.
- **Leviticus 11:41 (KJV)** And every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth *shall be* an abomination; it shall not be eaten.
- **Leviticus 11:42 (KJV)** Whatsoever goeth upon the belly, and whatsoever goeth upon *all* four, or whatsoever hath more feet among all creeping things that creep upon the earth, them ye shall not eat; for they *are* an abomination.
- **Isaiah 66:17 (KJV)** They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one *tree* in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.
- **Ezekiel 8:10 (KJV)** So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about.

Another Hebrew word related to the above is "shiq-quts," which comes from the same root as "she-qets." This word occurs 28 times in 26 verses in the OT.

- **Deuteronomy 29:17 (KJV)** And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which *were* among them:)
- **1 Kings 11:5 (KJV)** For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.
- **1 Kings 11:7 (KJV)** Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that *is* before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.
- **2 Kings 23:13 (KJV)** And the high places that *were* before Jerusalem, which *were* on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.
- **2 Kings 23:24 (KJV)** Moreover the *workers with* familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD.
- **2 Chronicles 15:8 (KJV)** And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that *was* before the porch of the LORD.
- **Isaiah 66:3 (KJV)** He that killeth an ox *is as if* he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, *as if* he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, *as if* he offered swine's blood; he that

burneth incense, *as if* he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.

- **Jeremiah 4:1 (KJV)** If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove.
- **Jeremiah 7:30 (KJV)** For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.
- **Jeremiah 13:27 (KJV)** I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, *and* thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when *shall it* once *be*?
- **Jeremiah 16:18 (KJV)** And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things (tho-'e-vah).
- **Jeremiah 32:34 (KJV)** But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.
- **Ezekiel 5:11 (KJV)** Wherefore, *as* I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish *thee*; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.
- **Ezekiel 7:20 (KJV)** As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty: but they made the images of their abominations *and* of their detestable things therein: therefore have I set it far from them.
- **Ezekiel 11:18 (KJV)** And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.
- **Ezekiel 11:21 (KJV)** But *as for them* whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.
- **Ezekiel 20:7 (KJV)** Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.
- **Ezekiel 20:8 (KJV)** But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.
- **Ezekiel 20:30 (KJV)** Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? and commit ye whoredom after their abominations?
- **Ezekiel 37:23 (KJV)** Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

- **Daniel 9:27 (KJV)** And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make *it* desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.
- **Daniel 11:31 (KJV)** And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.
- **Daniel 12:11 (KJV)** And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.
- **Hosea 9:10 (KJV)** I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: *but* they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto *that* shame; and *their* abominations were according as they loved.
- **Nahum 3:6 (KJV)** And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock.
- **Zechariah 9:7 (KJV)** And I will take away his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth: but he that remaineth, even he, *shall be* for our God, and he shall be as a governor in Judah, and Ekron as a Jebusite.

Another word is "ba-'ash" which refers to "something that smells bad", i.e. morally offensive. It occurs 17 times in the OT in 16 verses.

- **Genesis 34:30 (KJV)** And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I *being* few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.
- **Exodus 5:21 (KJV)** And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.
- **Exodus 7:18 (KJV)** And the fish that *is* in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.
- **Exodus 7:21 (KJV)** And the fish that *was* in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.
- **Exodus 8:14 (KJV)** And they gathered them together upon heaps: and the land stank.
- **Exodus 16:20 (KJV)** Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

- **Exodus 16:24 (KJV)** And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.
- **1 Samuel 13:4 (KJV)** And all Israel heard say *that* Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and *that* Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.
- **1 Samuel 27:12 (KJV)** And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor (2x) him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.
- **2 Samuel 10:6 (KJV)** And when the children of Ammon saw that they stank before David, the children of Ammon sent and hired the Syrians of Bethrehob, and the Syrians of Zoba, twenty thousand footmen, and of king Maacah a thousand men, and of Ishtob twelve thousand men.
- **2 Samuel 16:21 (KJV)** And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that *are* with thee be strong.
- **1 Chronicles 19:6 (KJV)** And when the children of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the children of Ammon sent a thousand talents of silver to hire them chariots and horsemen out of Mesopotamia, and out of Syriamaachah, and out of Zobah.
- **Psalms 38:5 (KJV)** My wounds stink *and* are corrupt because of my foolishness.
- **Proverbs 13:5 (KJV)** A righteous *man* hateth lying: but a wicked *man* is loathsome, and cometh to shame.
- **Ecclesiastes 10:1 (KJV)** Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: *so doth* a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom *and* honour.
- **Isaiah 50:2 (KJV)** Wherefore, when I came, *was there* no man? when I called, *was there* none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because *there is* no water, and dieth for thirst.

In the Book of Proverbs, it is interesting to note that in all 20 occurrences of the word translated in the KJV as "abomination," the word is "tho-'e-vah." The verb form is "tha-'ab" which means to loathe or to be made to abhor or to morally detest. As mentioned above, the noun refers to "abhorrence." It is something hateful to the LORD. This is the LORD's perspective on the word. The next question we need to ask is: "what are the things in the Book of Proverbs that the LORD considers as abhorrent?" Some verses describe what man considers an abomination, but we are seeking the LORD's perspective in this study, not man's.

I. The Cheat or Liar –

- **Divers Weights -- Proverbs 11:1 (KJV)**, "A false balance *is* abomination to the LORD: but a just weight *is* his delight." **Proverbs 20:10 (KJV)**, "Divers weights, *and* divers measures, both of them *are* alike abomination to the LORD." **Proverbs 20:23 (KJV)**, "Divers weights *are* an

abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance *is* not good."—The possession of false balances and diverse weights is a deliberate attempt to cheat in business. Proverbs 11:1 is not referring to balances that become inaccurate due to wear and tear. However, if the person deliberately uses one that is not balanced due to wear and tear, it would also be considered as cheating.

Divers weights (literally "stones and stones") and divers measures (literally "ephah and ephah") were used in OT times to measure grains by weight and volume. When stones and ephahs are manipulated to the advantage of the businessman who possesses these deceptive items, the LORD's charge against him is abomination. Both practices are abhorrence to the LORD! When a person is cheated of his livelihood, his family suffers. Furthermore, they were all the people of God living in the Promised Land. Their testimony was crucial to the rest of the world which was in spiritual darkness.

A just weight is the LORD's delight or pleasure. The LORD is pleased with anyone who is honest and always deals fairly. There is a place for proper profit where everything is done above board. The price is agreed upon, and the goods are delivered at that price. However, when the weight is adjusted to one's own favour, it is cheating. The person who was cheated may not know it but the LORD does! It is an abomination to Him. What the LORD thinks must mean more to the child of God than what any man thinks!

- **Lying Lips -- Proverbs 12:22** (KJV), "Lying lips *are* abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly *are* his delight." -- Lying lips belong to those who do not keep their word deliberately. Their words mean nothing to them. They would sign on the dotted line and still break their covenant. Lying is their way of life. They would lie to gain an advantage. They would lie to elevate their pride and self-interest. They have no scruples. They would say whatever they want just to get their way. These are men without morals and convictions. Neo-evangelicals are good examples of such liars. If they hang around liberals who attack the Word of God, they would "sing their song" and condone the attacks on God's Word by either their silence or vocal agreement. When they are with fundamentalists, they would sing the tune of the fundamentalists. Their aim is to be liked by both sides and to be invited to speak at both camps. They have no sense of righteousness. They would be like a chameleon changing its colour to suit the background in order to survive. These are liars who lie in business, God's business! They are abhorrence to the LORD!

However, all those who deal truthfully whereby their word is their bond bring pleasure to the LORD. The LORD is pleased with those who tell the truth at all costs. They mean exactly what they say. If it means personal loss because they have said it, then they would bear the loss to honour their word. They would not put a price tag on the name of the LORD. Wherever they go they carry with them the honour of the LORD. They are consciously aware of this privilege they have received from the LORD when they became Christians.

There is no such thing as a white lie. A lie is a lie. There is no excuse for lying. In our day to day society where men are supposed to live in peace with one another and live an ordinary life, they are supposed to be truthful at all costs. God's children must know the difference.

NOTE – The LORD considers cheats and liars as an abomination.

II. The Seven Abominations – 6:16-19

Proverbs 6:16-19 (KJV), "These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: **17** A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **18** An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, **19** A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren." – Some have understood verse 16 to mean that the LORD hates the first six things and the seventh thing is an abomination. Others interpret that the LORD hates all seven things, and they are abominations to Him as well. The latter seems more probable, as it is an eight-line proverb in which all lines are linked synthetically, with the climax in the final line.

All seven sins mentioned here are hated by the LORD, especially when found in the lives of God's people, at least those who profess to be believers. They are abominations to the LORD. They mar His holy Name badly.

- A proud look, -- literally it refers to one whose eyes are raised upward. He is arrogant, and his eyes reflect it toward others. It could be because of his higher education, money, status, even his address, and whatever that he thinks he has that others do not have;
- a lying tongue, -- Literally it refers to a tongue that "cheats with its words". The possessor of the lying tongue cannot seem to tell the truth. His words are full of falsehood. He is characterised by untruth.
- hands that shed innocent blood, -- these sinners kill people not only with their hands in the literal sense but also in the figurative sense. Their deeds and actions would assassinate others' characters. They destroy lives by what they do.
- An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, -- The heart of the wicked would devise, i.e. fabricate or engrave, wicked or evil imaginations (i.e. contrivance or complicated plots). In other words, their hearts would design complicated plots to destroy lives. This speaks of their evil motives. They are cold, and their hearts are hardened. They will try to outdo themselves in their evil ways. They dream of new evil to hurt and kill.
- feet that be swift in running to mischief,-- the word "swift" comes from the root word that has the idea of "liquid flowing easily and swiftly". The wicked will do evil swiftly. They will not wait or procrastinate. They will strike with the greatest of ease and speed.
- A false witness that speaketh lies, -- The above describes the many parts of the person but number six describes his entire person. His untruthful personality will result in deception or "lies" (as opposed to the word "lies" above). The word "speaks" is more than just opening his mouth to speak; rather, he "blows with his breath," i.e., scoffs.
- he that soweth discord among brethren – This person sows or spreads forth "discord", which refers to "strife", among brethren. Brethren living in peace with one another are turned into mortal enemies by such a one. He spreads his strife around like a farmer casting his seeds to the ground. To destroy lives by his evil deeds is bad enough but to cause others to destroy each another is ten times worse, especially when they were once brothers!

NOTE -- These might seem like "small" sins to many because they are committed frequently. But the LORD regards them as hateful and an abomination.

III. The Perverse –

Far or near -- Proverbs 3:32 (KJV), "For the froward *is* abomination to the LORD: but his secret *is* with the righteous." – The word "forward" means "to turn aside", and in this context it would mean to turn aside from God and His holy Word. Anyone who turns his back on the Word of God by ignoring it is an abomination to the LORD. The LORD's secret, i.e. closeness or intimacy, is with the righteous. The righteous are those who are truly born again and have been imputed with the righteousness of Christ. Their hearts always desire to obey every jot and tittle of God's Word. Whenever their sins are pointed out to them, they would repent and return back to the LORD.

Proverbs 11:20 (KJV), They that are of a froward heart *are* abomination to the LORD: but *such as are* upright in *their way are* his delight." – The word "forward" here is different from the one above. Here it refers to something that is crooked or distorted. The hearts of these people are twisted and crooked, i.e. evil and rotten. Contrast this with the ones who are upright in all that they do and in whom the LORD has pleasure. The upright in heart will perform deeds of righteousness.

NOTE -- The LORD contrasts abomination with delight. The perverse ones (i.e. those who are crooked and turn aside from the law) are an abomination to the LORD.

IV. The Wicked –

Proverbs 15:8 (KJV), "The sacrifice of the wicked *is* an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright *is* his delight." – There is a slight difference between verses 8 and 9. In verse 8, the sacrifice (i.e. slaughter) of the wicked (i.e. morally wrong), referring to his offering, is an abomination to the LORD. The offerings are made for the purpose of cleansing one's sins and to celebrate holy days such as Passover and the feasts of booths and unleavened bread. When it is done by a wicked person who might have committed a sin or transgression against the laws of God, his offerings are considered abominations. The LORD is against the outward show of ritual offerings. This means that if we do likewise today, the LORD would also regard our "outward show of religiosity" as an abomination!

But the prayer of the upright, i.e. the person who does righteous deeds, is the LORD's delight. The LORD takes pleasure in the prayers of the righteous. This means that the LORD hears their prayers.

NOTE – The LORD regards the outward worship and service of an unrepentant sinner as an abomination.

Proverbs 15:9 (KJV), "The way of the wicked *is* an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness." – This verse refers to the way of the wicked (i.e. morally

wrong) which is an abomination to the LORD. His way refers to his path or life on this earth in relation to man and God. His life of sin or transgression is regarded as an abomination by the LORD. Do not think that our day to day lives are insignificant to the LORD. The morally wrong things would be not doing the right and biblical things, like praying, reading God's Word, and giving tithes and offerings. They also include what we are not supposed to do but still do, such as not forgiving one another or loving one another.

But the LORD loves those who continue to follow after righteousness in all that they do. To be loved by the LORD is to be known by the LORD. There is intimacy in the relationship between the child of God and his Heavenly Father.

NOTE – The LORD considers the life of an unrepentant sinner as an abomination.

Proverbs 15:26 (KJV), "The thoughts of the wicked *are* an abomination to the LORD: but *the words* of the pure *are* pleasant words." – In this verse, the emphasis is more serious. Here it speaks of that which the eyes cannot see, but only the LORD can see, which are man's thoughts. The thoughts of the wicked (i.e. the evil one) are an abomination to the LORD. As long as the wicked think evil of others or how to do evil to others, the LORD says that such thoughts are an abomination to Him.

But the words of the pure are pleasant or agreeable. The LORD would be very agreeable to what comes out of the mouth of one who is pure, as opposed to the mouth of one who is inherently evil!

NOTE – The LORD considers the thoughts of evil men as an abomination.

Proverbs 17:15 (KJV), "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both *are* abomination to the LORD." – This verse has a little twist to it. This person justifies, i.e. considers as right, one who is wicked (morally wrong). He is also one who condemns the just. Both of them are abominations to the LORD. The one who justifies the wicked will allow them to get away with sin and even murder. He will let such sinners loose and thus encourage them to sin even more since they are above the law. He also condemns the righteous, who have not done any wrong but are treated as sinners and criminals. They are imprisoned based on false accusations. Their lives are lost because of the condemnation of lawless men. The cause of these injustices is not the point. It could be bribery or favours or flattery. Committing injustices is considered an abomination by the LORD.

NOTE – The LORD regards those who corrupt justice (right and wrong) as an abomination.

V. The Proud – 16:5

Proverbs 16:5 (KJV), "Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though* hand *join* in hand, he shall not be unpunished." – Everyone, regardless of one's position on the

earth, who is proud (lofty or lifting oneself high) in heart is an abomination to the LORD. No man can see the heart of the proud. There is a kind of pride that is visible whereby others can see by his conduct and through his words. But the proud in heart is puffed up inside him that only the LORD can see. It is good enough for the LORD to judge him as an abomination before Him. It does not matter if he gets many people to support him (hand in hand) or if he has the majority of people on his side who say he is humble, kind, and philanthropic; the LORD shall still punish him. He will not escape. The LORD will certainly punish him. It may not be in this lifetime, but he will never escape the judgment of the LORD. This democratic rule of man that puts the majority above the law of God will be judged by the LORD one day. This verse is a good example of how the LORD views man's obsession with ruling through democracy!

NOTE – The LORD considers anyone who is puffed up in his heart an abomination!

VI. The Prayer – 28:9

Proverbs 28:9 (KJV), "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination." – This final verse is the most frightening of all. Anyone who turns his ear away from hearing or obeying the law of God, even his prayer, shall be an abomination to the LORD! Prayer is one of the greatest privileges given by the LORD to only His children. Here we have someone who refuses to obey the law of God after he has heard it, i.e. he lives in sin, thus his prayers before the LORD are an abomination.

NOTE – The LORD considers the prayer of a person who rejects or deliberately disobeys the law of God as an abomination.

SUMMARY

- The LORD considers cheats and liars as an abomination.
- These might seem like "small" sins to many because they are committed frequently by many. But the LORD regards them as hateful and an abomination.
- The LORD contrasts abomination with delight. The perverse ones (i.e. those who are crooked and turn aside from the law) are an abomination to the LORD.
- The LORD considers the outward worship and service of an unrepentant sinner as an abomination.
- The LORD considers the thoughts of evil men as abominations.
- The LORD regards those who corrupt justice (right and wrong) as an abomination.
- The LORD considers anyone who is puffed up in his heart as an abomination!

- The LORD considers the prayer of a person who rejects or deliberately disobeys the law of God as abomination.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is it correct to say that the LORD gave the Ten Commandments to regulate a society living normally with one another? "Commandments 6 to 10 (see Exodus 20:13-17) were meant to regulate normal life but not in times of war!" Do you agree with this statement? Do you agree that Commandments 1 to 5 (cf Exodus 20:1-12) are for all times?
2. What does it mean to serve God with clean hands and a pure heart? Do you think that every believer can have this experience in service, or is this only an ideal that cannot be fulfilled on earth?
3. If you are a student and you disobey your parents at home and bear a bad testimony, would your service in church be considered an abomination to the LORD? If you are married and you sinned against your spouse and there is no forgiveness, would your service be an abomination to God?
4. If the Bible says to keep the Sabbath Day holy and you do not, would your prayer be an abomination to the LORD? What about if you do not pray without ceasing or do not give tithes?
5. If I think I am better than my peers or try to outdo them in everything, including studies, games, and service, would I be charged with being puffed up? Would I be an abomination to the LORD? If my ambition is to excel and climb the ladder of success and to get rich, is this an abomination to the LORD?