

**July 22, 2024**

***Pv. 6:16-19 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.***

You might be thinking that there is no one innocent, and yet there have been 61.8 million abortions performed in the U.S. alone since 1973. Every single one of these little ones are innocent and yet they were put to death before they were even able to choose anything for themselves.

Now I'm not going to spend this whole devotional on abortion, but it is safe to say that one of the reasons we are suffering as a nation is because we have chosen to go our way instead of the LORD's way. Every one of these little ones were knit together in their mother's womb by the LORD Himself. Not only is this abhorrent to our God, but it should also be to us as believers. According to scripture, this is something that the LORD hates.

We must also realize that it is up to God to give life and to take it away. When we try to impose ourselves upon the LORD's plan, we see that we have crossed a line and He will bring judgment upon us. And it is not just upon the unborn that this happens. When we trust Jesus as our personal LORD and Savior, we are not proclaimed innocent by the atonement of the Lamb of God. He took our sins upon Himself and paid the total price for them. So, we must not shed the blood of the innocent; figuratively or realistically. We do that by literally taking one's life, but also by impugning the character of someone who is covered by the blood of Jesus. This happens when brothers and sisters in Christ turn on one another instead of forgiving and encouraging each other.

**Dear LORD, in a nation that stands for freedom, we have chosen to allow this terrible action to be performed legally in our country. Dear Father, please forgive us and help us to rectify this sin. We must repent and turn to You. In Jesus Name, Amen.**