

A Growing Community

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.



Proverbs 6:16-19

Please know that when I call these community killers, they may not cause instantaneous death

These things present in a church, or an individual life will most likely provide a slow painful death

Little by little they begin to cut off the oxygen supply of the community until finally like a weed in a garden they just choke out life



Malice



What is Malice?

Desire to cause pain, injury, or distress to another

**Intent to commit an unlawful act or cause harm
without legal justification or excuse**

**When you look at the
definitions, malice is
an internal issue**

**Intent
or
Desire**



Malice is Reactive

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘Because the Philistines acted in vengeance and took revenge with malice in their hearts, and with ancient hostility sought to destroy Judah.’”

Ezekiel 25:15

Notice while the outward action is revenge, the inward thought is malice

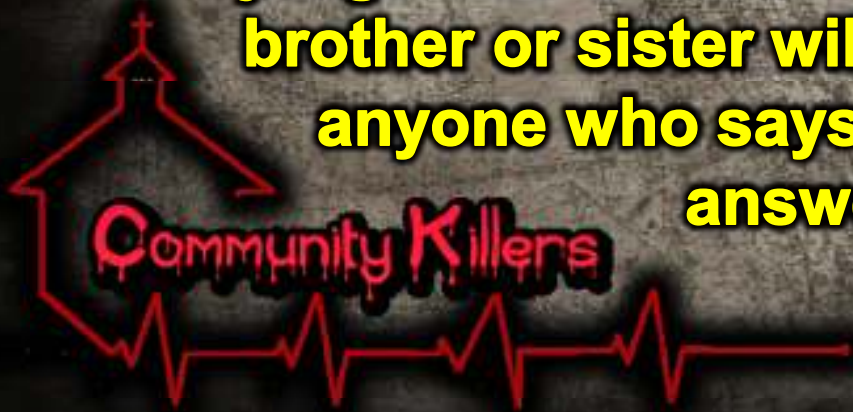


What are the effects of Malice?

Vicious Speech (Psalm 5:9) Abusive (Psalm 55:10)

Oppressive and Arrogant (Psalm 73:8)

**“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago,
‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to
judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a
brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again,
anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is
answerable to the court. And anyone who
says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger
of the fire of hell.**



Therefore, each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.

Ephesians 4:25-27



What Causes Malice

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:31-32



What Causes Malice

Make no mistake about it if there is malice in the church, we have a forgiveness issue

If malice exists there is a lack of compassion

We are harboring grudges from the past

We are holding onto things and building barriers



Bitter

Dealing with Malice

Suppression is not the solution (Proverbs 26:26)

Time does not heal all wounds.

**The idea that we just get over things is a
fairytale**

**When you are in any kind of
group eventually somebody
is going to hurt you**



Explosion or Implosion

Seek God

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:1-3



Seek Resolution

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23-24



Seek Resolution

Jesus said resolve your conflicts before they become malice

Not get over it, deal with it

**In your prayer if you think of somebody
somebody you may have
offended go and reconcile**



Malice Seeds

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15





For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

v. 23-26

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

v. 27-31

Prayer Time

