



Who Are Our Enemies? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

QUESTION: Who are our enemies?

ANSWER: An enemy is everyone who opposes those who trust in God, and do the things described by David in **Psalm 56:5-6**: "All day ...

1. **"They twist my words;"** — By changing the meaning of the words after they are used. Lawyers can make an innocent conversation sound evil. Politicians & some Preachers can make good words become wrong for they are:

Ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. (**Jude 4**)

[In Paul's epistles] are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. (**2 Peter 3:16**)

2. **"All their thoughts are against me for evil."** — This shows their intent. Their words may appeal to "unity" or "friendship," but their purpose is for evil. David summed it up again:

Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; Preserve me from violent men, Who plan evil things in their hearts; They continually gather together for war. (**Psalm 140:1-2**)

Solomon said:

He who hates, disguises it with his lips, And lays up deceit within himself; When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart. (**Proverbs 26:24-25**)

The only "unity" enemies have is to be against the same righteous person. Jesus was thus treated:

Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other. (**Luke 23:11-12**)

3. **"They gather together,"** — Sad to see that gatherings for "fellowship," "brotherhood," or "church" can be used by one's enemies, but difficult, or nearly impossible, to make this a concern to Christians! This was the case with Jesus:

Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. (**Matthew 26:3-4**)

4. **“They hide,”** — Here “hypocrisy” creates a front that is not heartfelt. David said:

Preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked. (**Psalm 64:1-2**)

Malicious people are cowards, who attack from their darkness. Solomon described evil enemies:

If they say, “Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause...” (**Proverbs 1:11**)

Elihu was right when speaking of God:

There is no darkness nor shadow of death Where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves. (**Job 34:22**)

5. **“They mark my steps,”** — They look for missteps, failures, or weaknesses as opportunities to make prey of the righteous. Jesus knew them:

And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. (**Mark 3:1-2**)

Of less importance to Jewish leaders was mercy for the crippled man, or a miraculous confirmation by Jesus, or to learn Scripture in the synagogue, but their focus was only to find failure! Wisdom warns:

Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity. (**Proverbs 24:15-16**)

6. **“When they lie in wait for my life.”** —

As a lion is eager to tear his prey, And like a young lion lurking in secret places. Arise, O LORD, Confront him, cast him down; Deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword. (**Psalm 17:12-13**)

It is not wrong to ask God “In anger cast down the peoples” (**Psalm 56:7**).

— *jtp11, April 18, 2021*