

Simplicity of the Simple Life
Simple Focus on Good & Evil (Wk 12)

Romans 12:1-8

Ephesians 4:11-16

Romans 12:9 NKJV

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

NLT

Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.

“**Abhor**” in Greek in this passage means to dislike, to detest utterly, have a horror of

“**Cling**” in Greek in this passage is from the root to glue together or fasten together but in this verse it carries the idea of giving oneself steadfastly to or labor for. The gluing or fastening together has to do with intentional effort or work toward the process of staying attached.

I believe it is extremely important at this juncture to point out the focus and flow of this passage.

Verse 9: Don't pretend to love. Hate what is evil. Make effort to glue yourself to good.

Verse 10: Love each other with genuine affection

First Consideration:

It appears that we have a tendency to misappropriate our love on things and not on people. This tendency also exhibits itself in hating people instead of hating the evil or the wrong or the sin that is in this world.

(reread)

Second Consideration:

It appears that our definitions of good and evil vary greatly based on our interpretation of various experiences and sources of information in our lives.

Third Consideration:

As a Christ follower, it appears that the holy scriptures teach that faith means believing and embracing what God says is true over our perception of what we think might be true.

Isaiah 5:20 HCSB *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

Acts 10:37-39 NASB 1995 ³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. ³⁸ You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

Galatians 6:9-10 NLT ⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17 NKJV ¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 NIV ¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Matthew 7:16-18 NLT ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit.

1 Thessalonians 5:21 ESV *But test everything; hold fast what is good.*

Romans 8:28 NKJV *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

James 1:17 ESV *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Psalms 107:1 NASB 1995 *Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.*

Psalms 119:68 ESV *You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.*

Psalms 34:8 NASB 1995 *Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! How blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

Mark 10:18 ESV *And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.*

Only one who is truly good and it is the One True God, Creator of heaven and earth, Yahweh is one of many names to describe Him

Psalms 100:5 ESV *For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Exodus 33:18-19 ESV *Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.*

Jeremiah 42:6 ESV

Whether it is good or bad, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.”

Relationship with God by grace through faith is how an apprentice of walking in the ways of Jesus learns the difference between God who is good and the forces of evil. God is good and wants His goodness in us from the inside out.

Isaiah 1:16-18 NIV ¹⁶ *Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. ¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. ¹⁸ “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.*

Romans 3:20-24 NKJV ²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*

Ephesians 3:16-21 NLT ¹⁶ *I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. ²⁰ Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.*

Colossians 3:1-17 NLT *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. ¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Ephesians 2:10 Amplified Bible *¹⁰ For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us].*

We must be a family of Christ followers that are learning, growing, and changing because we are being intentional about pursuing the God family (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) that it seems like we are gluing ourselves to them.

The only way to truly know the difference between good and evil is to spend time with God, who is good!

Have you experienced His goodness for yourself?