

2.

Abhor what is evil...

Romans 12:9b

In order to love well, a person must also know what they are *not* to love. Followers of Christ are called to train their emotions to conform to the heart of God and begin to increasingly feel how He feels about *evil*. In Genesis 2:9, God forbids Adam and Eve from eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Evil is therefore the opposite of *good*. When something or someone violates their God-ordained good purpose, it becomes *evil*. For example, a car was designed for a good purpose. But when it is used to intentionally harm people, its usage becomes evil.

1. How would you respond to someone who described *an earthquake* (which resulted in the tragic loss of human life) as evil? Is this the kind of evil Romans 12:9 is referring to?

2. The Greek word translated here as “abhor” is only used once in the New Testament. It is the superlative of hate. To hate a lot is to detest. To hate utterly is to abhor. What *kind* of evil are Christians to *abhor* and how can Christians be *loving* and *abhorring* at the same time?

3. How is the believer’s life contrasted to that of the unbeliever according to Romans 1:29-30?

4. What is the ultimate destiny of those who love what is *evil* according to John 5:29?

5. Is *abhorring* a passive response or an active one? That is, is abhorring just a matter of *not* loving or does it require something to be done?

'Evil' is mentioned several times in this Romans 12:9-21 passage. The New Testament is very emphatic about what our attitude should be toward *evil*.

6. Note what First Corinthians 10:6 prescribes as a means for the believer to develop their hatred of what is evil-

6. What don't Christians hate or abhor enough?

Amen.