

3.

Hold fast to what is good...

Romans 12:9c

Being a follower of Christ is not just a matter of doing what is *right*. You can be a follower of Christ and do what was *right*, and still not necessarily reflect Christ sweetly. We must do what is right *and* loving *and* good. ‘Good’ is that which is pleasing, desirable, and positively beneficial.

1. What are all people invited to do according to Psalm 34:8, and what does this tell us about God?

We live in a world which pressures good people to be bad. This pressure is sometimes subtle, but it is always relentless.

2. What kind of circumstances would need to be happening in order for the apostle to ask his hearers to *cling to* or *hold fast to* what is good?

If you chose to live a life which prizes the good, you will be seen as *odd* by a world which calls wrong “right” and good “bad”.

3. What is the relationship between *holding fast to what is good* and *enduring*?

4. In what way does Luke 8:15 show that holding fast is an essential Christian quality? (Refer also to Philippians 2:16)

When Christ challenged the person who called Him 'good', with the question, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone" (Mark 10:18), His respondent should have responded, "Because You are God in the flesh!" (Note Titus 3:4)

5. How had Paul previously said that believers were to "stand fast" in Romans 11:20 and how do we do this?

Goodness is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). As we walk in the Spirit, we will shun what is evil and cling to what is good despite any opposition we face, or obstacle we have to overcome.

6. Can someone live as a Christian without "holding fast" according to First Corinthians 15:2?

Amen.