



# Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street \* Morehead, KY 40351 \* (606)776-7089 \* www.gracemorehead.org

# Roamin' In Romans Romans Chapter 12

Message preached on Wednesday, March 19, 2025

**Romans 12:9 - "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."**

## Abhor Evil...Cleave to Good

**REMEMBER:** This is what a Christian looks like.

This point gives us two sides of the same coin...and BELOVED both sides are necessary.

**PERHAPS** discuss counterfeiting currency...you get one side perfect, but the other side horribly wrong...it won't work.

**NOTE:** Often Christians think they are cleaving to good...but accepting evil. You can't do that!

**"Abhor"** – apostugeo – intense dislike, a repugnance to something; to detest utterly (every part); to back away from it in disgust.

**UNDERSTAND:** Your tolerance of evil should be nil...nada...zero...zilch!

**AS A MATTER OF FACT:** It should disgust you.

It is **CRAZY** how we are living in a day and time where churches are allowing EVIL and sin into the church...being okay with it. Sure, it may bring your numbers up...but it is wrong!

**UNDERSTAND:** A pastor will not be judged by the size of his congregation...but by how faithful he is to the congregation he has been given.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 – "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Proverbs 8:13 – "The **fear of the LORD is to hate evil**: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

Psalms 97:10 – "**Ye that love the LORD, hate evil**: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 36:4 – "He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; **he abhorreth not evil.**"

Isaiah 5:20 – "**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil**; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

**BELOVED:** What do you think God's view of evil is?

**"Evil"** – poneros – anything that is full of destruction, disaster, harm or danger (spirit, soul or body).

We have gotten SO FAMILIAR with the phrase, "God is love (1 John 4:7,8)" that we have not read the rest of the Bible. God hates sin...He hates evil.

**THEREFORE:** We have religious leaders AND the world telling us that WE MUST accept sin...because God is love...even though the same Bible clearly says HE hates sin/evil.

"But God loves the sinner" – of course He does,

~ but SIN/EVIL will DESTROY that man

~ but SIN/EVIL will CAUSE separation from God for that man

~ but SIN/EVIL will throw that man into DESTRUCTION.

John 4 – Jesus called the woman at the well out on her sin.

John 8:7-11 – Woman caught in adultery

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and **said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

**HERE IS where** we pump our fist and say, "Yeah! He was okay with it."

8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

**NEVER** are we told to condemn anyone...but we are to hate SIN/EVIL.

**BELOVED:** It must disgust us...because if it doesn't disgust us...there will be a slow ride into participation.

Psalm 1:1 – "Blessed is the man that **walketh** not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor **standeth** in the way of sinners, nor **sitteth** in the seat of the scornful."

**NOTICE:** The progression of sin...walk, stand, sit.

Every person who DID EVIL in the Old Testament (when it was noted over and over again) ended up in destruction. Most of them didn't JUMP IN WITH BOTH FEET.

**THINK OF Balaam**...where King Balak wanted him to have him curse Israel, but Balaam couldn't do it. He made it very clear that he couldn't curse them...because God had blessed them.

**YET:** In Jude 1:11 tells us Balaam got his money...why?

Numbers 25:1,2

1 And **Israel abode in Shittim**, and the people **began to commit whoredom** with the daughters of Moab.

2 And they called the people unto the **sacrifices of their gods**: and the people did eat, and **bowed down to their gods.**

**NO MAN** could curse them...but they could start accepting EVIL and they would curse themselves.

**NOTE:** You may not DO sinful things. But do you tolerate it. Watch it on TV. Partner with it. Listen to it?

***EVIL should bother you...to your core.***

## **EVIL isn't just iniquity.**

The BIBLE spends a lot of time calling things evil...and I think we need to listen.

Genesis 50:20 – What Joseph's brothers did to Joseph was evil.

Murder? Sure!

Hate? Sure!

Rising up against family/covenant!

Numbers 13:32 the men who went into the Promised Land came back with an evil report.

Anything that is contrary to what God has commanded. Anything.

Not guarding your eyes.

Job 31:1 – "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"

**BELOVED:** When we see what is contrary to the things of God...we should have ONE RESPONSE...  
abhor it, to its bones.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Pastor Mike sent a meme out in a text thread to myself and my nephews. It was a golf ball sitting amongst some rocks, right on top of a rattlesnake. The caption said, "What are you doing?"

Pastor Mike said, "Dropping the ball 50 feet form that point"

I said, "Mike, I need your gun."

A dumb answer (that wasn't suggested), "Play with the snake."

Pastor Mike and my answers were appropriate...get as far away as possible or KILL it.

**BELOVED:** Too many Christians spend their time playing with the snake and can't figure out why they are not enjoying the blessing of God in their lives.

**SECOND SIDE OF THIS COIN:** To cleave to that which is good.

**"Cleave"** – kallao – glue or cement something together; a permanent connection; impossible to separate.  
(see Ruth and her response to Naomi (1:14))

It paints the picture of staying as far away from EVIL as possible, by staying as close to GOOD as you can.

This is the stuff that God says to do...says is right.

Micah 6:8 – "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

We could go through so many verses of Scripture that defines good, but basically it is all about  
WHATEVER God says to do...do it.

(perhaps take some time to have people discuss Scriptures that would define good we should do)

## One More Picture

One thing I was meditating on as I focused on this phrase, "Abhor that which is evil and cleave to that which is good."

I looked at it according to what we allow to operate in our lives.

**"Good"** – *towb* – beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, at ease, favor, fine, glad, good, kind, pleasant, prosperity, sweet, wealth, welfare, protection, health, strength, etc.

**HOW OFTEN** have we become okay with these things operating in our lives?

~ The things we are not the best...oh well.

~ I am not experiencing favor...oh well.

~ It's a hard knock life...oh well.

~ Not pleasant...not prosperous...not healthy...oh well!

We become okay with that kind of life because that is what we are USED TO!

**BELOVED:** That is not okay.

We need to abhor EVIL when it is set up in our lives...and BELIEVE and CLEAVE to that which God desires us to enjoy in our lives.

**SOMETIMES** we can control our sickness through medication or our pain through ibuprofen...so we DEAL WITH IT instead of abhorring it.

If we are not where we want to be...keep ABHORING the evil (while being content) and BELIEVE LIKE CRAZY for God's promises.

1 Peter 5:9 – "Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

***CLEAVE to living by faith. CLEAVE to the Word...to His promises.  
CLEAVE to His goodness.***

**BELOVED:** Anything that is iniquity...sin...evil...or simply NOT what God has for us needs to be as far from operating in our lives as possible.