

"Superglue yourself to that which is good; weld yourself to it." When you have bonded yourself to righteousness, you will stand the pressure when you are tested.



In sharp contrast, Paul told the believers in Rome to "hate what is evil" (v.9). The underlying concept here is loathing evil and despising sin, seeing it as absolutely abhorrent. As soon as we come in contact with it, we cast it as far away from us as we possibly can and get out of there.

Obviously, we're not talking appearances here, but actualities. Sometimes the most beautiful or handsome exterior can disguise the most wicked interior. Our spiritual enemy often hides his most destructive temptations in the most attractive packages.

We are to pull "good" to us, wrap our arms around it, glue or weld it to ourselves. "Evil," however, we are to thrust away from us as quickly as possible because we loathe it.

Lord, give me discernment to see what is truly good and hold on to it. Give me the hatred to reject what is evil. Help me to bond to the good and hate what is wicked. Amen. --DE

REFLECTION

- Is it easy or difficult for me to see the difference between right and wrong? Do I act decisively once I know?
- Are there some parts of doing good that I hate? Some parts of evil that I love? Why?
- As I read Romans 12, what help do I get from God in defining what is good and what is evil?

Love good; hate evil.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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A Love/Hate Thing



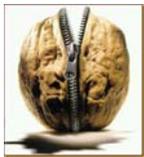
I was watching the farmer weld a broken tow bar on his 4WD ute. He was going to be towing his horse float high into the mountains to hunt roos on horseback, and he needed to trust that tow bar.

He lit the welding torch, heated the metal, and applied the welding rod.

The metal melted, then came together, and he had a solid weld. He used that tow bar to pull the float and horses through deep mud and up steep mountain tracks without a problem. Talk about being bonded! The hitch was stronger than ever.

When Paul told the believers in Rome to "cling to what is good" (12:9), he was talking about the strongest kind of bonding possible. In essence, he was saying,





Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)

“Must Haves”

(John 3:7) "... You must be born again."

(2 Timothy 3:14) "...you must continue in the things which you have learned ...,"

Romans 12:9 lists 3 ‘must haves’ of the Christian life. Today we look at the first two:

1. _____ first, verse 9

(1 Peter 1:22) "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,"

(1 Peter 4:8) "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins.""

(Matthew 22:37-39) "Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' {38} "This is the first and great commandment. {39} "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

(1 John 3:18) "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

(1 John 4:7-8) "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. {8} He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."

(1 Corinthians 13:4-8) "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; {5} does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; {6} does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. {8} Love never fails."

(2 Corinthians 5:14) "For the love of Christ compels us, ...;"

(Revelation 2:4-5) "...Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. {5} "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place; unless you repent."

(Matthew 15:7-9) "...Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: {8} 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their



lips, But their heart is far from Me. {9} And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'""

2. Hate _____, verse 9

(Matthew 26:41) ""Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.""

(Psalms 36:1-2) "An oracle within my heart concerning the transgression of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. {2} For he flatters himself in his own eyes, When he finds out his iniquity and when he hates."

(Psalms 36:1-2) "For the director of music. Of David the servant of the LORD. An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before his eyes. {2} For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin." [paraphrase]

(Psalms 45:6-7) "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. {7} You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

(Psalms 97:10) "You who love the LORD, hate evil! ..."

(Psalms 119:104) "... I hate every false way."

(Proverbs 8:13) "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; ..."

(Amos 5:15) "Hate evil, love good; ..."

(1 Thessalonians 5:22) "Abstain from every form of evil."

(Exodus 23:7) ""Keep yourself far from a false matter; ..."

(Jude 1:23) "but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh."

(Ephesians 5:3-7) "But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, **let it not even be named among you**, as is fitting for saints; {4} neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. {5} For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. {6} Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. {7} Therefore do not be partakers with them."

(Matthew 5:29-30) ""If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. {30} "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell."

(Psalms 101:3) "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; ..."

(Philippians 4:8) "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, ... noble, ... just, ... pure, ... lovely, ... of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things."

