

Signs of the Caring and Committed
#33: Sin: The Enemy We Now Love to Hate
Romans 12:9b

“Abhor what is evil...”

Romans 12:9b (NASB)

Paul, in his attempts to guide the Romans church, follows up his don't-make-love-a-stage-act advice here with the words “abhor what is evil”. He tells them to not just reject, refuse, or rebuff evil, but to loathe, disgust, or be sickened by it.

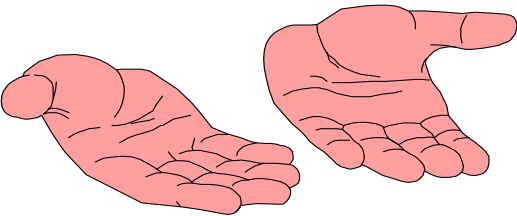
By using the Greek word here for abhor, in essence, Paul is saying we should “boo” wickedness with every sighting and at every opportunity. Evil is the antagonist, the opponent, the opposer, the foe, the adversary—every time. Sin must be unwaveringly regarded as unfriendly, anti-social, detrimental, and contrary. Iniquity should always be viewed spiritually as the man in black, Lex Luther, Captain Hook, or Adolf Hitler without exception.

In wisdom literature, similar sentiments such as “hating evil” and “every false way” are expressed. God inspired Peter to write a companion sentiment in I Peter 5:8 by saying “your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” With such thoughts noted in scripture, you would think it would not be difficult to scream, shout, and yell our extreme disgust for sinful and evil ways. However, the scripture is still true that says “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Our problem is that sin was not always the enemy, not always on the other team.

How does a crowd who formerly cheered for a player who now works for the other team react? That's the \$64,000 question for us former sinners! Peter chimes in with his preferred answer in I Peter 4:3 (NASB):

“For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.”

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Now that you have been purchased by Christ's team, we have to with each passing day learn to fiercely hate what we used to love, vociferously "boo" what we use to "cheer", unwaveringly abdicate what we formerly advocated, and condemn what in the past we cherished. We can do it "as Christ's strengthens us" (Phil 4:13).

With Care and Commitment,

Patrick Medlock, Minister

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