

## **MARKS OF A CHRISTIAN: HATE EVIL-DO GOOD**

Romans 12:9 “Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”

It seems like there is more and more evil in the world and less and less good. At least this seems to be true as you watch the news or listen to what people are saying. There is an anxiety about personal safety because of evil people doing harm to innocent people. The lock-making-industry is thriving as people are fearful of “bad guys” breaking into their homes to steal their valuables. Guns are sold in record numbers to people purchasing them for personal protection.

The bombing in Nashville, TN the day after Christmas accents why you may live feeling less secure than ever before. This feeling of insecurity means there are places you will not shop, venues you avoid, activities you once did and no longer do all because you are concerned for your personal safety in those particular places.

Hate evil-do good! Sounds so simple, doesn't it? It would appear all that needs to be done is to outlaw evil and hire enough police officers to enforce those laws. God has provided all the laws we need. His laws are known as the Ten Commandments. If His commandments were obeyed, there would be no evil in the world.

What then does good look like? St. Paul told Timothy, “This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:3-4) How do you know what is good? St. Paul says to know what is good it is necessary to “discern what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:10) St. Paul exhorts, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2) Learning what God's will is enables you to learn what is good.

Therefore, “. . . test everything; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22) The advice of Peter is good advice to you as you contemplate the choices you make each day, “. . .but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and

respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Prayer: O LORD, grant me a discerning heart and mind to know what is good and to hate that which is evil. In the name of Jesus, Your Son, my Savior. Amen.

The Law of God is good and wise And sets His will before our eyes,  
Shows us the way of righteousness, And dooms to death when we transgress.

Its light of holiness imparts The knowledge of our sinful hearts  
That we may see our lost estate And turn from sin before too late.

To those who help in Christ have found And would in works of love abound  
It shows what deeds are His delight And should be done as good and right.

But those who scornfully disdain God’s Law shall then in sin remain;  
Its terror in their ear resounds And keeps their wickedness in bounds.

The Law is good; but since the fall Its holiness condemns us all;  
It dooms us for our sin to die And has no pow’r to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee, Who from the curse has set us free,  
And humbly worship at His throne, Saved by His grace through faith alone.  
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