

First we saw love, now we see hate. This seems contradictory. However, love does not love everything. It hates evil.

Evil is the antithesis of holiness and godliness.

Notice Paul's verbs: "Abhor (apostungountes) what is evil; hold fast (kollömenoi) to what is good." He did not say "Choose against evil and choose good." His words are very strong. "Abhor" is a good translation. "Loathe,": "Be disgusted with" (Liddell and Scott Lexicon) would also be correct. "Hold fast to what is good" means embrace it. Love it. The word is used for sexual union in 1 Corinthians 6:16.

Don't just avoid evil, hate evil. Don't just choose good, embrace the good. Love the good. The battle of Christian living is a battle mainly to get our emotions changed, not just our behavior.

We should be shocked by sin today but we have become so calloused to it because it is so common. We are not sensitive to evil so much.

We cannot flirt with sin and escape falling into it.

If we love what God loves, then we are to hate what God hates.

Hate Evil Proverbs 6:16-19—7 things God hates

Isa 1:12-15 Amos 5:21---- God hates religion

1 Thess 5:21-22 1 Cor 6:18, 1 Tim 6:10-11, 2 Tim 2:22

Cling to what is good glue, bond, binding to that which is right

Phil 4:8

2. THE ACTION OF LOVE IN THE CHURCH 12:10-13

A. KINDNESS TO ONE ANOTHER

Kindly affectionate(Philostorgoi) friendly, family love

Brotherly love (Philadelphia)

B. PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER(Proegeomai) putting them first

Rom 12:3, Phil 2:3 Honor—to show genuine appreciation and admiration

C. NOT LAGGING IN DILIGENCE

This is mainly pertaining to action.

Not lazy in zeal and intensity---with enthusiasm and care

Gal 6:10, 2 Thess 3:13, Eccl 9:10, Eph 5:15-16, Heb 6:10-12

D. FERVENT IN SPIRIT

This relates to attitude.

(Zeo) boil This is like a steam engine having sufficient heat to produce the energy necessary to get the work done. Gal 6:9, Acts 18:25

The NIV says, "Never be lacking in zeal." This is a rebuke to passivity and laziness and lethargy and apathy and boredom. Paul assumes that if you see this in yourself you can do something about it. We have been given the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and the power of prayer precisely to fight against the encroachments of the culture of acedia in our own hearts. So he speaks this word directly to us this morning as relates to the cause of truth and life: don't lag, don't float, don't drift, don't sit mindless in

front of TV, don't have only little dreams of playing on the weekend. Stir up zeal for God and for the cause of God and truth and life. There are great things worth living for; and giving in to acedia is a sacrilege against the greatness of God and his glorious purposes in the world. Piper

E. SERVING THE LORD

Rom 1:9

F. REJOICING IN HOPE

Rom 8:24-25

G. PERSEVERING IN TRIBULATION

We are able to persist against any obstacle and endure in any suffering.

Rom 5:2-5

H. DEVOTED TO PRAYER (Proskartereo)strong toward something

Steadfast and unwavering Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4, Jude 20, Eph 6:18

1 Thess 5:17

I. CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS (Koinoneo)

Acts 2:42, 44, 4:32, 1 Tim 6:17-18 We are to use our personal resources. We are stewards of what He has blessed us with. Gal 6:10

J. PRACTICING HOSPITALITY

Heb 13:2, Luke 14:12-14 3 John 5-8, 1 Pet 4:9