

Abhor That Which Is Evil

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While stopped at a railroad crossing a few years ago, I noticed a young man on a bicycle approaching the tracks. It was obvious that the train was coming – the cars were backed up at the tracks, the lights were flashing, and the train's horn was blaring loudly. Without slowing down, the young man zoomed in front of the speeding train with its horn blasting, and he crossed the tracks with what appeared to be only a few feet between him and the oncoming train. I sometimes wonder if many Christians have the same attitude toward sin that this young man had toward the train. Rather than having a desire to be cautious and stay far away from the dangers of sin, they seem to have a desire to get as close as they possibly can! *“Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?”* (Proverbs 6:27). Here are some questions to ponder:

1. Do we realize how deadly sin is?

There is nothing more deadly than sin. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and sins we will not truly repent of will cause us to be lost in Hell forever! What could be worse than eternal torment?

2. Do we rejoice in iniquity?

The world loves things that are sinful. The world thinks sin is funny, entertaining, and worthwhile. They do not see how serious sin really is. One who thinks in a Biblical way will see sin as the reason our Lord Jesus Christ had to die on the cross! There is nothing more serious than that! Those with true love and understanding do not rejoice in iniquity (1 Corinthians 13:6). We should be like John, who wrote, *“I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father”* (2 John 4). It made John happy to see people walking in truth – not walking in sin! Can you imagine God laughing at a sinful joke? Can you imagine God thinking something sinful is funny? God HATES things that are evil, and He commands us to do the same! (Romans 12:9).

3. Do we realize that it causes God grief when we sin? (Ephesians 4:30).

We should shudder at the thought of causing God grief by our actions.

4. Do we envy sinners?

“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked...Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches...Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end” (Psalm 73:3, 12, 17). The tall grass will be cut down: *“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb”* (Psalm 37:1, 2). The proud, impenitent sinner may think in his heart: *“Look at me – I*

am so tall; I spread these seeds of evil so there will be others like me; I am out here enjoying the sunshine..." However, the lawnmower is coming.

"Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" (Romans 12:9).

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