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**1. Romans 12:9: "Let (your) love be without dissimulation (or hypocrisy):**

- a. Dear children of God, the love that comes forth from your life should be an outflow of that (agape) love of Christ that is in you! Your love should not be hypocritical or pretended, but a true expression of the life and love of Christ from within your soul!
- b. Just as God has allotted each one of us a measure of faith, God's love has also been "poured out in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us."
  - i. These (2) things are true of every one of us as Christians!
- c. As you are to exercise & use your faith in Christ each day, you are also to exercise & use the love of God that is within you each day! These are both characteristics of your new birth into the Kingdom of Christ!
  - i. 1 John 4:7-8, 13-16. And now the 2<sup>nd</sup> parts of Romans 12:9: "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."
- d. I love this practical portion of Romans, it's like a NT Book of Proverbs!

**2. As God's love IN US flourishes and grows, love for the world and the natural desire for the things of the world should be diminishing and departing from our minds.**

- a. The more we love Christ, the more we SHOULD ABHOR EVIL and CLEAVE to what is GOOD. Both "abhor and cleave" are very forcible in their meaning, they are meant to convey intensity and impact us in our minds!
  - i. "To Abhor" means to detest, hate, or to despise as repugnant.
- b. The word "Evil" here means malignant and pernicious. When something or someone are pernicious, it means they are morally and socially destructive, injurious, and actively opposed to that which is good.
- c. To help us understand the depth of this EVIL, which we are to ABHOR, WE NEED GO NO FURTHER than the scribes and Pharisees in their opposition to the Lord Jesus. Mark 3:1-6.
  - i. Jesus abhorred the EVIL and vicious cruelty and inhumanity that was in their hearts in that they would deny mercy, compassion, and healing to this suffering man because it was the sabbath!
- d. Jesus' ire and sinless anger was provoked against these wicked men because of His great love and compassion for miserable and helpless, and diseased sinners, like this man with the withered hand!

- e. This passage in Mark, gives us a better understanding of what it means to "abhor evil."
  - i. Because of Christ's love IN US we should abhor and detest evil, (like He did), and we should be able to express righteous anger toward those who are evil, but in such a way as to also desire to express the love of Christ to them!
- f. This is what we MUST have God's grace and help for, dear brethren, YES to abhor and be angry when we behold things like this that are evil, but NOT be sinfully angry toward abhorrently evil men and women in the world.
  - i. William Newell wrote: "To be a good Christian, and man (or woman) must be a good hater."

### **3. Next: "Cleave to that which is good"**

- a. This word "cleave" means to be glued, cemented, or attached to something or someone. In the same way that the love of Christ IN YOU should and will cause you to "abhor evil," so the love of Christ IN YOU should and will also cause you to "cleave or be glued to that which is good."
  - i. This is what MUST be our holy motivation!
- b. Although abhorrence of evil and cleaving to good are intentional and must be our practice as Christians, understand that the power that underpins us to willingly desire and practice this "holy abhorrence of evil" and this "righteous cleaving to what is good" comes from the grace, power, and love of Christ in us!
- c. We will struggle to practice these "sanctifying precepts", and they will be like spiritual chores that we hate if we are NOT PUTTING OFF the old man, which is corrupt, and PUTTING ON the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness, and WHO SHUNS ALL evil and gravitates toward all that is good!
  - i. 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22, 3 John 11, Galatians 6:10, Romans 12:21
  - ii. "Let (your) love be without dissimulation (or hypocrisy), abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good."