Abhor what is evil…

Romans 12:9b

In order to love well, a person must also know what they are not to love. Followers of Christ are called to train their emotions to conform to the heart of God and begin to increasingly feel how He feels about evil. In Genesis 2:9, God forbids Adam and Eve from eating the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Evil is therefore the opposite of good. When something or someone violates their God-ordained good purposed, it becomes evil. For example, a car was designed for a good purpose. But when it is used to intentionally harm people, its usage becomes evil.

1. How would you respond to someone who described an earthquake (which resulted in the tragic loss of human life) as evil? Is this the kind of evil Romans 12:9 is referring to?

2. The Greek word translated here as “abhor” is only used once in the New Testament. It is the superlative of hate. To hate a lot is to detest. To hate utterly is to abhor. What kind of evil are Christians to abhor and how can Christians be loving and abhorring at the same time?

3. How is the believer’s life contrasted to that of the unbeliever according to Romans 1:29-30?
4. What is the ultimate destiny of those who love what is evil according to John 5:29?

5. Is abhorring a passive response or an active one? That is, is abhorring just a matter of not loving or does it require something to be done?

‘Evil’ is mentioned several times in this Romans 12:9-21 passage. The New Testament is very emphatic about what our attitude should be toward evil.

6. Note what First Corinthians 10:6 prescribes as a means for the believer to develop their hatred of what is evil-

6. What don’t Christians hate or abhor enough?

Amen.