

Evil and Wickedness in New Testament

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "Evil and Wickedness—Part 6." The focus of this study was about evil and wickedness in the remaining books of the New Testament (Acts, James, Peter, John, Jude and Revelation).

Various categories

Notice some of the various categories where the subjects of evil and wickedness could be placed.

- The evil one—1 John 2:13-14, 1 John 3:12 and 1 John 5:18-19.
- Evil spirits—Acts 19:12-16.
- Evaluating behavior—James 1:13, James 2:4, 2 John 10-11, 3 John 11 and Revelation 2:2.
- Lay aside all evil speaking—James 3:8, James 3:16, James 4:11 and 1 Peter 2:1.
- Avoid speaking evil of leaders—Acts 23:1-5, Exodus 22:28, 1 Peter 2:13-14 and Jude 1:8-11.
- People speaking evil about you—1 Peter 2:12, 1 Peter 3:9-12, 1 Peter 3:16-17, 1 Peter 4:4 and 1 Peter 4:15.

Be slow to avoid

2 John 1:9-11—"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds."

Do you avoid greeting people who have a different view from yours about the doctrine of Christ?

Do you avoid greeting a person of the Hindu religion, Buddhist religion, Muslim religion or Jewish religion?

Do you avoid greeting a person of the Christian religion who has a different interpretation about the Godhead?

Do you avoid greeting a person among the Church of God congregations who has a different interpretation about the family of God?

- I suggest that you don't have to avoid people who have different points of view.
- I recommend that you consider avoiding people who are seeking to push their ideas down your throat.

Recognize evil

Revelation 2:2—"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars."

Control the tongue

Acts 23:5—"Then Paul said, 'I did not know, brethren, that he was the high priest; for it is written [in Exodus 22:28], 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people.' "

James 4:11—"Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge."

1 Peter 3:8-9—"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing."

1 Peter 3:10-12—"For 'he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.' "