

Good versus Evil; 2 John 11

- I. Imitate
 - a. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery..."
 - b. "...that mediocrity can pay to greatness." Oscar Wilde
 - c. God asks us to imitate Him (1 Peter 2:21)
 - d. Paul says to imitate him as he imitates Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1)
 - e. To use as a model, to emulate, to strive to equal or excel
- II. Evil
 - a. Mark 7:20–23 (ESV); ²⁰ And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."
 - b. We have to develop our decision making skills
 - i. We tend to gravitate toward selfishness
 - ii. Our decisions tend to be what's best for us
 - iii. We often hear, "you have to do what's best for you" – this is making decisions from 'within' ("and they defile a person")
 - iv. Proverbs 14:12 (ESV); There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.
 - v. James 1:19 (ESV); Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;
 - vi. Never make decisions in anger (or speak out of anger)
 - c. There are many examples of evil that we imitate
 - i. The mob mentality is ruling right now in many big cities
 - ii. Portland, OR has had rioting for a week straight now
 - iii. Seattle, WA has had part of their city taken hostage
 - iv. In both of these places there is looting, violence, vandalism, extortion – all because the city governments refuse to enforce the laws that they made
 - v. People who would normally not participate in these riots are participating (imitating evil)
 - vi. I'm not talking about any of the peaceful protests against the governments of those cities
 - vii. People who represent CHOP (Capitol Hill Occupied Protests) in Seattle are extorting business owners trying to gain entry into their properties
 - d. Very simply stated, we are responsible for our own actions
 - e. Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV); ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - f. If we pursue (imitate) evil then we are without God (*have* not seen God)
- III. Good

- a. 3 John 11 (ESV); Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.
- b. 'Good' is another one of those words that we tend to define how we want to
 - i. Some people would say that 'Friday the 13th' was a good movie (I would not)
 - ii. Some people would say graham crackers and salsa are good together (I would not)
 - iii. We must bring our focus back to the biblical use of the word
 - iv. Luke 18:18–19 (ESV); ¹⁸ And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.
 - v. Useful for edification; beneficial, a graceful declaration
- c. We need to concentrate on what God tells us is good
 - i. Romans 12:1–2 (ESV); ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (*what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God*)
 - ii. Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV); ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - iii. In these two short verses there is a lifetime of practice
 - iv. 2 Peter 1:5–8 (ESV); ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸ For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. We must imitate good – What God says is good

IV. Good versus Evil

- a. Our battle is not what we think it is – we are waging war against the wrong thing
- b. Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV); ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
- c. We do not wage war against the violent protesters, or against the prejudiced people of this world
- d. The word of God is clear on prejudice and bigotry
 - i. James 2:1 (ESV); My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.
 - ii. It doesn't matter where people are from or what they look like
 - iii. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal"
 - iv. James 2:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹ But

if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

- e. We wage this war by imitating the fruit of the Spirit
- f. We wage this war by increasing our faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love
- g. There is a war out there – of good against Evil, the Word of God against the word of man
- h. We imitate good providing others around us an example, just as Jesus gave us an example