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- Degrading, depraved
- Things God hates
- Some more subtle
- 2 Cor 2:11 - “devices” or “schemes”

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Cling

- Fruit of righteousness - James 3:17-18
- Fruit of the Spirit - Gal 5:22
- Good, righteous, true, and acceptable to the Lord - Eph 5:9-10
- Light vs. dark – verses 8 and 11

Abhor

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Apathy



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 - Apathy and evil. The two work hand in hand. They are the same, really.... evil wills it, apathy allows it. Evil hates the innocent and the defenseless most of all. Apathy doesn't care as long as it's not personally inconvenienced. (Jack Thoene)

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 - Nothing is more conducive to peace of mind than not having any opinion at all. (Georg Christoph Lichtenberg)

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- The world recognizes its effects
- Voter apathy
- Effect on the church/our spirituality

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 - Malachi - Before the Lord fell silent for 400 years, Malachi pronounces judgement the people's indifference, and the profane worship they were offering the Lord. Their failure to offer the best sacrifices, divorce, and failure to tithe were all signs of the lack of regard they had for God's wishes

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 - The churches at Laodicea and Sardis (Rev 3:1-3; 15-18)

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 - Gideon - Judges 7:2
 - Nebuchadnezzar – Dan 4:28-33
 - “No authority except from God” – Rom 13:1-2

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- Israel and the promised land (Deut 8; Hos 13:5-6)
- Comfort in strength
- Comfort in riches
 - Uncertainty of wealth - Prov 11:28; 23:4-5; 1 Tim 6:17
 - "Store up treasures" – Mt 6:19-21
 - "An inheritance imperishable" – 1 Pet 1:3-7

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- “Let us be alert and sober” (1 Thess 5:6)

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2. Discouragement

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- You're in good company
 - Job – Job 21:7-16
 - David and Psalms
 - Elijah fleeing to Mt Horeb – 1 Kings 19
 - Jeremiah – Jer 7:25-27; Lam 3:22-23
 - Heb 11 – Noah, Joseph, martyrs and their families, etc...

Footholds for Apathy

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- You're in good company
- Guard against pessimism
 - A little leaven – 1 Cor 5:6
 - "No graves in Egypt" – Ex 14:10-12
 - "Grasshoppers in our own sight" – Num 13:31-33

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- "Not worthy to be compared" (Rom 8:18)

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- One of Satan's strongest tools
 - "The Only Thing Necessary for the Triumph of Evil is that Good Men Do Nothing" (Edmund Burke)
 - Incrementally desensitized
 - Saturated
 - Sticks and stones... 1 Pet 4:3-4
 - Legal intimidation

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- No tolerance for false teachers
 - Savage wolves - Acts 20:29-30
 - Denying God and maligning truth – 2 Pet 2:1-2
 - Causing division, devoid of the Spirit – Jude 17-19

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- Examples of Pergamum and Thyatira (Rev 2)
- Hold fast to the pattern given (1 Thess 5:21; Tit 1:9; 2 Tim 3:16; 4:3)

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 - Prayed fervently

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 - Began the day in scripture

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 - Pushed yourself to do something you considered beyond your ability or comfort level

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- Junk in, junk out (Gal 6:8)
- Deeds of the flesh vs. fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:19-26)
 - Fruit must be fed, nurtured, and growing (connected to the vine)
 - Outside forces begin to act immediately on separation

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- Action and activity (1 Pet 3:10-13)