

2023 DANIEL FAST

R.E.A.L.

Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for

DAY 15

Romans 12:9-12 [The Voice Translation] “Love others well, and don’t hide behind a mask; love authentically. **Despise evil**; pursue what is good as if your life depends on it. ¹⁰ Live in true devotion to one another, loving each other as sisters and brothers. Be first to honor others by putting them first. ¹¹ Do not slack in your faithfulness and hard work. Let your spirit be on fire, bubbling up and boiling over, as you serve the Lord. ¹² Do not forget to rejoice, for hope is always just around the corner. Hold up through the hard times that are coming and devote yourselves to prayer. ¹³ Share what you have with the saints, so they lack nothing; take every opportunity to open your life and home to others.”

The word “evil” in verse 9 is an interesting word in the Greek language. It is a derivative of another word in that language that means, *hurtful*. One of the other definitions of the word “evil” is *the absence of the qualities which constitute a person or thing what it should be or what it claims to be*. In our relationship with others, we should despise anything that is hurtful to others and hinders us from loving others well. We also have a duty to be constantly looking at our friendships asking the question, “*Are there any qualities missing in my relationships that should be there?*”

“Despise” is a very strong word in the Greek language. It means to *detest utterly* or *detest with horror, to be disgusted*. In other words, it means we REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, don’t like it! One of the ways that we can love others well is by despising evil. We should absolutely hate it when the enemy inserts issues into our relationships that are hurtful to our friends or those who we are befriending.

God calls us to love others, give to others, serve others, speak well of others, forgive others, etc. But He also instructs us to despise evil actions, words, and activities of satan that creeps into the relationships of those that we love. “*It takes longer to build a relationship than it does to destroy one.*” (anonymous quote) Protect your relationships by despising evil and in turn you will be loving others well.

It’s time to build Relationships Everyone's Always Looking for!

Worship Song:

“I Thank God” – Maverick City Music and Upperroom

<https://youtu.be/C8k6jSS7sb4>

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 45:7 [The Voice] *“You have loved what is right and hated what is evil. That is why God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness and lifted you above your companions.”*

Proverbs 8:13 [Contemporary English Version] *“If you respect the Lord, you will hate evil.”*

Psalm 97:10 [New International Version] *“Let those who love the Lord hate evil.”*

Amos 5:15 [New International Version] *“Hate evil, love good.”*

Prayer:

Father, in the relationships that I have, and I am endeavoring to have, help me to despise evil. Help me to see and hear the traps of the enemy that are meant to be hurtful and destroy my friendships. Let me see the missing qualities of a great relationship and help me to put those into practice. My hope is that my friendships and my relationships with others are pure and holy. I want to despise evil and love what is good. In the Name of Jesus I pray, amen!

Today, I need to pray for:

What is God telling me today?
