

“Abstain From All Appearance Of Evil.”

1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV

Not everyone follows “the crowd,” but many are guilty by association. In other words they give the appearance of collusion. “The crowd” might be just going by you, but unless you pointedly walk away, you risk being perceived as participating in their activity by mere proximity. If you saw a mud slide coming down on you, you would flee, but we so often allow the mud of evil to engulf our thoughts and actions without so much as a glance. This “evil” is the philosophies, celebrations, and solutions practiced by the unbelievers surrounding us. Believers are to be “lights” in the darkness of sin; overtly opposed to its darkness by our very obedience. Just as light cannot co-exist with darkness, our trusting obedience of



God’s Word must stand in stark contrast to the evil around us. Jesus prayed, *“I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through Thy Truth: Thy Word is Truth.”* We must continuously and consistently guard ourselves from the appearance of sin by obeying God’s Word lest we be perceived as having “the appearance” of evil! Look at “the crowd” around you: Is their behavior in opposition to the Standard of Scripture in any way? Beware! Lest you appear to agree with them! *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: For what fellowship hath Righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the Temple of God with idols? For ye are the Temple of the Living God; as God hath said, ‘I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My People. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,’ saith the Lord, ‘and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,’ saith the Lord Almighty. Keep yourselves from idols.”* Idols are temporal substitutes for God. *“As he thinketh in his heart,, so is he.”* You’ll know what a man worships by his behavior.

Abstain from sin in all you do,
And God will always walk with you;
Beware the crowd with whom you stand,
You may be thought part of their band. –CGP

Political stands or philosophies are a subtle way for evil to become part of your philosophy. You need not go with the lesser evil to prevent the worse, but are Commanded to abstain from even the appearance of it!

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to Will and to Do of His Good Pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the Word of Life; that I may rejoice in the Day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” *Philippians 2:12-16 KJV*