

BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO SIN



Romans 12:9-21

A frog is put into a pot of boiling water, and the shock is so great the creature immediately jumps out to safety. Another frog is placed in lukewarm water as the pot is very gradually heated to a boil. Before the frog realizes the danger, it is too late. Likewise, a newly trained nurse begins her first day assisting in an operating room. She is so alarmed by the amount of blood that she becomes faint. Years later she has witnessed so many operations that the blood and gore do not bother her. She gradually became used to it.

“It is sadly true that even a Christian will grow by degrees so calloused that the sin which once startled him and made his blood run cold does not alarm him in the least. By degrees we get familiar with sin” (Spurgeon).

In Romans 12:9 the command is given, “Abhor that which is evil.” The word “abhor” means to hate, to shrink back from something in horror, just as one would shrink back from death itself. It is from a Greek root *stug* from which comes the Greek word Styx, which was the river of Hades, the river of death.

We are to abhor evil just like one might quickly shrink back in fear when suddenly coming upon a poisonous snake. Yet, the tendency is to become calloused little by little the more we are exposed to sin.

Consider the sin that we see in others. Does it bother us in the same way that it used to? Has it lost its shock effect? More importantly, I should consider the sin in my own heart and life. Does it alarm me as it once did? Am I convicted deeply in my soul? Or, have I gradually learned to tolerate it?

The Holy One who dwells within abhors it; may I also!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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