

# A LoveHate Relationship Series: 'Cling to What Is Good'

Note: You may find the Message Podcasts & Group Guides in this series at [actschurchlakeway.com](http://actschurchlakeway.com). This may also be found on the ACTS Lakeway smartphone app, available for download in the app store for your phone or tablet.

## Group Connection Point

Life definitely has its ups and downs. But with the start of summer, many people shift gears into a season of family vacations, fireworks, boating, golf, or grilling. When you reflect upon the 'good things' in life, what things come to mind, above everything else? Have each person in your group come up with their top three to five 'good things' and then share!

## Group Discussion Questions for 'Cling to What is Good'

***In the New Testament book of Romans, we are told: "Hate what is evil; cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9). Today we focus on the phrase, 'cling to what is good.'***

1. Think back to the Group Connection Point and all that came to mind when you considered the things that are 'good'? Now try to group your answers according to category: Did your top responses fall into the category of objects? Activities or experiences? People? Intangible qualities (such as love or freedom or faith or peace)? Share thoughts and potential conclusions.
2. How do you define that which is 'good'? What is your starting point in determining that?
3. You are not alone if your first reaction is to start with what seems to be good, from your own internal perspective. But is there a more objective standard for determining what is 'good'? (Remember the Garden of Eden: Eve and Adam ate the fruit because it appeared attractive and beneficial. So it is possible to be misled by things that seem to be good!)
4. God provides a standard in His Word - a starting point in determining objectively 'what is good.' Note already in Genesis chapter one, how God declares each component of Creation to be... what? Good! So creation, in its unblemished state, is declared good by God. Yet, by Genesis chapter 3, an infection spreads throughout God's good creation. And from that point on, God is at work to redeem His world. In light of this long-term activity of God, how might you be a part of bringing 'good'-ness to your corner of the world?
5. It would take God sending His Son Jesus to redeem our broken and bad world. And now, followers of Jesus are invited to join Jesus in the activity of 'clinging' to what is good. What things must you learn to 'love' and what must you learn to 'hate,' in order to carry out this command?
6. Read Romans 12:3-7. How might the active use of your gifts tie in to God's larger plan to bring goodness to... the church? to your home? to your community? to the world beyond?

## **A Closing Time of Prayer**

Conclude your time together by praying for one another, using what you've learned about each other in today's Small Group discussion.

## **Individual Journaling for 'Cling to What Is Good'**

Take some time to expand upon the thinking that was introduced by this week's discussion:

- What is involved when God tells me to 'cling' to what is good? Specifically, this week, for me this means...
- What things must I learn to 'love' and what must I learn to 'hate,' in order to carry out this command?
  - The things I must intentionally DO include...
  - The things I must intentionally NOT do include...
  - If I am not intentional about 'clinging' to what is good, the following scenario is probable:
- Once I have settled upon something good (like love for family), what is my response when I am confronted by a higher good (like love for country or love for God)?
  - Dear God, knowing and loving You has exposed some misplaced priorities. I have allowed the following people or activities to come between You and me.
    - I confess....
    - I ask...
    - I commit...
    - I rest solely on Your grace and am eternally grateful for the full pardon that Jesus won for me on the cross. Amen!