

**Cultural  
Research Center**

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# ***American Worldview Inventory 2020***

**Survey Finds America's Traditional  
Moral Pillars are Fading Away**

*AWVI 2020 Results - Release #6 "Perceptions of Morality & Moral Choices"*

**Conducted by Dr. George Barna  
Director of Research, Cultural Research Center**

# US MORAL FREEFALL - SURVEY FINDS...

“Our nation is facing a potential moral freefall unthinkable to earlier generations—with a majority of Americans today no longer embracing values of honesty, respect for the rule of law, the sanctity of life, and traditional sexual morality when facing moral issues.”

# US MORAL FREEFALL - SURVEY FINDS...

## Survey Results:

- When making moral choices
  - Less than 1/3 of American Adults rely on religious faith (29%)
  - Instead (30%) rely on other people
  - Or their own personal beliefs, feelings, or experiences (31%)
- Less than half (48%) who proclaimed to have a “belief” in God were likely to rely on the Bible for primary moral guidance
  - Between the ages of 18 to 19, only (15%) were likely to turn to the Bible for moral guidance
  - Instead they tend to look to themselves (29%) or to family (25%)

# US MORAL FREEFALL - SURVEY FINDS...

John 3:19 “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

Romans 12:9 “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*”

Romans 12:9 “Let love *be* without hypocrisy. **Abhor what is evil.** Cling to what is good.”

***ABHORRING EVIL***



# ABHORRING EVIL



*Attitude towards sin*  
✦ Life and Death



# ABHORRING EVIL

Romans 6:23 “For the **wages of sin** is **death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

# ABHORRING EVIL

Romans 6:16-18 “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin [leading] to **death**, or of obedience [leading] to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that [though] you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

# ABHORRING EVIL



*Attitude towards sin*

- ✦ Life and Death
- ✦ Abhor

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Romans 12:9 “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*”

- Greek word for abhor is (apostygeō)
- Only found in one place in the NT
- Thayer’s Lexicon defines this to have a horror of, dislike

# ABHORRING EVIL

## *Attitude towards sin*

- ✦ Life and Death
- ✦ Abhor
- ✦ Flee

# ABHORRING EVIL

1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”

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1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.”

- Greek word for flee is (pheugō)
- Thayer’s Lexicon defines this to mean to shun or avoid by flight something abhorrent, especially vices



# ABHORRING EVIL

1 Corinthians 10:14 “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

# ABHORRING EVIL

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

# ABHORRING EVIL

1 Timothy 6:11 “But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”

# ABHORRING EVIL

The image features two human hands against a light blue background. The hand on the left is making a thumbs-down gesture, while the hand on the right is making a thumbs-up gesture. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangular box is positioned between the two hands, containing text. The text is white and includes a title and a bulleted list.

## *Attitude towards sin*

- ✦ Life and Death
- ✦ Abhor
- ✦ Flee
- ✦ Resist

# ABHORRING EVIL

James 4:7 “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

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James 4:7 “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

- Greek word for resist is (anthistēmi)
- Thayer’s Lexicon defines this to set oneself against, to withstand, resist, oppose

# ABHORRING EVIL

2 Samuel 11:2-4 “Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman [was] very beautiful to behold. 3 So David sent and inquired about the woman. And [someone] said, “[Is] this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?” 4 Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house.”

# ABHORRING EVIL

Genesis 39:10-12 “So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her [or] to be with her. 11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house [was] inside, 12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.”



# ABHORRING EVIL

James 4:7 “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

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## *Attitude towards sin*

- ✦ Life and Death
- ✦ Abhor
- ✦ Flee
- ✦ Resist

## *What should be our focus...*

- ✦ Cling to what is good

# ABHORRING EVIL

Romans 12:9-21 “[Let] love [be] without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 [Be] kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. 17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but [rather] give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance [is] Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

# ABHORRING EVIL

Romans 12:9 “*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”*

- Greek word for Cling is (‘kollaō)
- Used 11 times in the NT
- Thayer’s Lexicon defines this to give oneself steadfastly to, labor for, cleave to

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- ✦ Life and Death
- ✦ Abhor
- ✦ Flee
- ✦ Resist

## *What should be our focus...*

- ✦ Cling to what is good
- ✦ Pursue righteousness

# ABHORRING EVIL

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

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- Greek word for pursue is (diōkō)
- Thayer’s Lexicon defines this to seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavor to acquire

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- ✦ Life and Death
- ✦ Abhor
- ✦ Flee
- ✦ Resist

## *What should be our focus...*

- ✦ Cling to what is good
- ✦ Pursue righteousness
- ✦ Draw near to God

# ABHORRING EVIL

James 4:7-10 “7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [you] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [you] double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and [your] joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

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- Greek word for draw near is (engizō)
- Thayer's Lexicon defines this to turn one's thoughts to God

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## *What should be our focus...*

- ✦ Cling to what is good
- ✦ Pursue righteousness
- ✦ Draw near to God

# ABHORRING EVIL

Philippians 4:8-9 “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”