"Abstain from Every Form of Evil"

1 Thess. 5:22 (NKJV)

Introduction:
A. Christians are to abhor evil (Rom. 12:9) and "abstain from every form of" it.
   1. More blatant forms.
   2. More subtle forms.
B. Christians do well to abstain from the three basic *forms* of evil.

Discussion:
I. **Things Unconditionally Sinful.**
   A. Things inherently "unlawful" or "unclean". (Matt. 14:4; 2 Cor. 6:17)
      1. "Nothing unclean" (Rom. 14:14) and "All things lawful" (1 Cor. 10:23) limited to context.
      2. Some condemned by *name* others by *principle*. (cf. Gambling, cheating).
   B. There are things both morally and religious wrong - never right to do them.
      1. The works of the flesh and the like. (Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:28; Rev. 21:8; 1 Pet. 4:15).
      2. Teaching false doctrine. (Matt. 15:9,13).

II. **Things Circumstantially Sinful.**
   A. It may be lawful or clean of itself - still not be good. (Rom. 14:14; 1 Cor. 10:23).
   B. It may be good in some circumstances but not in others.
      1. Note: A thing ordinarily sinful cannot be made right by circumstances, while a thing ordinarily lawful can be made sinful by circumstance.
      2. If it is done in offence. (Rom. 14:15-21; 1 Cor. 8:8-13).
      3. If it is done in doubt. (Rom. 14:14,23).
         a. It may turn out to be lawful -- strictly speaking.
         b. We must protect our consciences.
      4. If it is done at wrong place or wrong time. (cf. 1 Cor. 8:10,11; 10:25-29).
         a. Things good one setting, not in another.
            (1) Items of apparel not for mixed company.
            (2) Entertainment and recreation. (Cf. Sunny James in Lubbock).
            (1) Instrumental music.
            (2) Common feasts. (1 Cor. 11:22,34).
         c. Things generally right made wrong by injecting corrupt elements. (Movies, T.V., games, etc.)

III. **Things Potentially Sinful.**
   A. Certain Marriages. (1 Cor. 7:28; 35-38; Neh. 13:26).
   B. Certain Companionships. (1 Cor. 15:33).
   C. Certain moves in life. (Gen. 13:12).
   D. Certain joint arrangements. (2 Cor. 6:14).

Conclusion:
A. We would do well to abstain from things sinful of themselves.
B. We would do well to abstain from circumstances that put good things in sinful light.
C. We would do well to abstain from things with sinful potential.