

# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

### 45 – Preplanning

Do not repay anyone **evil** for evil.  
Be careful to do what is **right** in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

<p><b>GOOD</b></p> <p>... a positive moral quality, with the implication of being favorably valued *</p> <p><b>good</b> <b>right</b> <b>noble</b> <b>honorable</b></p>	<p><b>vs.</b></p>	<p><b>EVIL</b></p> <p>... pertaining to being bad, with the implication of harmful and damaging *</p> <p><b>evil</b> <b>bad</b> <b>wrong</b> <b>harmful</b></p>
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\*Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.)*. New York: United Bible Societies.

<b>GOOD</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>EVIL</b>
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- These words can be used to describe desirable and/or undesirable things in the world of nature.
- For these things, "goodness" and "badness" **IS NOT** a moral issue.

A **good** tree can't produce **bad** fruit, and a **bad** tree can't produce **good** fruit. A tree is identified by the kind of fruit it produces. **Figs** never grow on **thornbushes** or **grapes** on **bramble bushes**.

Luke 6:43-44 (NLT)

NEXT VERSE IN THE PASSAGE →

<b>GOOD</b>	<b>vs.</b>	<b>EVIL</b>
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- Jesus uses the world of nature to teach us about moral issues.
- For us, "goodness" and "badness" **IS** a moral issue.

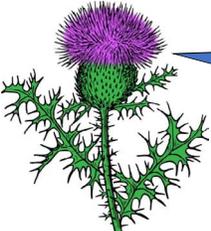
← PREVIOUS VERSES IN THE PASSAGE

A **good** person produces **good** deeds from a **good** heart, and an **evil** person produces **evil** deeds from an **evil** heart. Whatever is in your heart determines what you say.

Luke 6:45 (NLT)

**KEY ISSUE:**

"BAD" PLANTS ARE NOT SINNING...



YOU MAY CONSIDER MY THORNS BAD...  
**BUT I'M NOT SINNING!**

IN FACT, IT WAS **YOUR SIN** THAT **CAUSED** MY THORNS!  
SEE GENESIS 3:17-19.

**BUT "BAD" PEOPLE ARE.**

**AS WE SAW LAST WEEK:**

GOOD AND EVIL  
ARE DEFINED BY GOD, NOT US.

**I DON'T CARE WHAT GOD SAYS, I'M GOING TO CALL IT "GOOD"!!**

**AT THE JUDGMENT DAY, YOU'LL DISCOVER...  
IT'S STILL EVIL!**

**BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS:**

**EVIL IS NATURAL TO US.**

> BUT <

**GOOD TAKES CONSCIOUS EFFORT.**

**EVIL IS NATURAL TO US.**

- We don't always call it "evil," because we're used to doing it... *and often enjoy it.*
- We also tend to redefine what "evil" is, ignoring what God says about it.
- In reality, we're prisoners of sin.

But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, ...  
Galatians 3:22 (NIV)

**SCRIPTURE REVEALS HOW EVIL WE ARE.**

- If we accept what it says, our attitude changes from "I'm not that bad," to something like this:

**WE KNOW OUR SINFULNESS** → What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?  
Romans 7:24 (NIV)

**WE KNOW THE ONE WHO CAN RESCUE US!** → Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!  
Romans 7:25a (NIV)

**SCRIPTURE SHOWS US HOW TO ESCAPE OUR EVIL WAYS.**

- **WHAT WE MUST DO:** We have to say "NO" to evil.
- **WHAT GOD DOES:** His saving grace makes it possible:

[God's grace] teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ...  
Titus 2:12 (NIV)

**GOOD TAKES CONSCIOUS EFFORT.**

- This means both *mind* and *action* are involved.
- This is why Scripture *commands* us to put forth the effort.

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.  
Romans 12:17b (NIV)

... do not grow weary of doing good.  
2 Thes. 3:13b (NASB)

And do not neglect doing good ...  
Hebrews 13:16a (NASB)

**GOD MAKES GOOD POSSIBLE.**

- On our own, we *cannot* do anything that is entirely good.
- God gives us *his heart-and-mind-changing Word*, to make it possible. With it, he *changes* our values and conduct.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good action.  
2 Tim. 3:16-17 (ISV)

## GOD ENABLES OUR CHANGE.

- The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to convict and change us. He takes the Word and makes it alive in our hearts.

... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God  
Ephes. 6:17b (ISV)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow, as it judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart.  
Hebrews 4:12 (ISV)

## ROMANS 12:17 DEALS WITH BOTH OF THESE ISSUES.

SINCE EVIL IS NATURAL FOR US:

WE NEED TO SAY "NO" TO EVIL

*Do not* repay anyone evil for evil.  
Romans 12:17a (NIV)

SINCE GOOD ISN'T NATURAL FOR US:

WE NEED TO MAKE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO DO GOOD

*Be careful to do* what is right in the eyes of everybody.  
Romans 12:17b (NIV)

## WE NEED TO: **PRE-PLAN!**

- We've spent much of our lives thinking about ways to do evil... (even though we didn't always call it "evil").
- Now it's time to think of ways to do good!

WE NEED TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER WHAT TO DO:

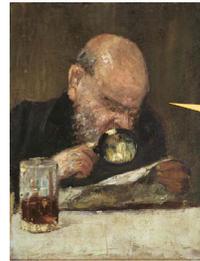
*Be careful to do* what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

HOW?

Scripture shows us the way.

- It begins with repentance and salvation.
- It continues as we submit to what God's Word says, which allows the Word to change our values and actions.



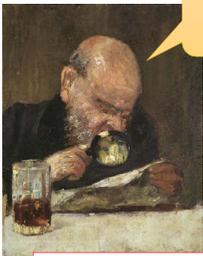
I'M LEARNING RIGHT FROM WRONG.

GOD IS INCREASING MY DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT!

God will use our pre-planning.

- We can't pre-plan everything, but God will build on what we do know.\*
- Result: Our response will become more God-honoring.

I CAN TRUST GOD!



But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ...

Matthew 10:19 (NIV)

\* (If we're unwilling to learn anything, there will be nothing to build on.)

## 2 FACTORS WHICH ARE PART OF OUR PRE-PLAN

1. WE NEED TO DO WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT:

- Aware that GOD teaches us in his Word what is good and right.
- WE must to learn these things before we can do them (i.e., before the trials come).

Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

**DOING WHAT IS GOOD AND RIGHT:  
GOD MAKES IT POSSIBLE,  
AND GIVES US THE DESIRE TO DO SO**

- GOD *enables* us to do what is good and right (through Jesus Christ)...

... who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, *eager to do what is good.*

Titus 2:14 (NIV)

**2. WE NEED TO DO GOOD IN THE SIGHT OF EVERYBODY:**

- **THIS DOES NOT MEAN** that everyone will admit it is good *when they see it*. The world often sees things backwards!
- At the Day of Justice, *all* will acknowledge what is good, even though at the present, many don't.

Be careful to do what is right *in the eyes of everybody.*

Romans 12:17 (NIV)

**DOING GOOD IN THE SIGHT OF EVERYBODY:**

- **THIS DOES NOT MEAN** we are trying to get attention and praise from others. (**We need God-honoring motives.**)

Be careful not to do your good works in public in order to attract attention. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you.

Matthew 6:1 (GW)

- **THIS DOES MEAN** people will see how we respond to whatever happens in life.

**THEY NEED TO SEE IT? **YES!****

- They need to see that we respond with GOOD rather than with EVIL.
  - ✓ GOOD as *God* defines it.
  - ✓ Whether or not they approve of it.

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

REFERS TO JUDGMENT DAY

## Your Mission...

God is watching...  
The world is watching...

Do your pre-planning NOW,  
so when trials come,  
others will see a response  
that is good and right!

You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see.

Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all.

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)



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# Your Mission...

**"Do not repay anyone evil for evil.  
Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody."  
Romans 12:17**

## PRE-PLANNING TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

- 1) *Finding* out what Scripture says.
- 2) *Thinking* about how it applies to life's situations.
- 3) *Responding* appropriately, when the circumstances arise.



### KEY IDEA:

Using one's mind to prepare ahead of time, then using that preparation to determine one's actions.

### SOME NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES:

- Planning ahead to do good - Romans 12:17 (seen by people); 2 Corinthians 8:21 (seen by God and people).
- Planning ahead to take care of one's own family - 1 Timothy 5:8.
- [A pretentious claim] Planning reforms to benefit a nation - (what the Jews said about Governor Felix, pretending to be glad that he ruled over them) - Acts 24:2.
- [Sinful pre-planning] Thinking about ways to gratify one's sinful desires - Romans 13:14. *Don't do it!*

## >> REPLACING EVIL WITH GOOD <<

Scripture does not tell us to simply say "no" to sin. Rather, it instructs us to *replace* that sin with righteous conduct. When we fail to do this, we make ourselves vulnerable to even greater problems. (Example: See Matthew 12:43-45.)

### EXAMPLES OF REPLACING EVIL WITH GOOD:

- "Taking off" one's sinful nature and "putting on" the new nature - Ephesians 4:22-24.
- Stop doubting and start trusting - John 20:27b.
- Getting rid of sinful character traits and taking on godly character traits - Colossians 3:5-9, 12-17.
- Stop being self-focused and start focusing on the well-being of others - Philippians 2:1-11. (Follow Jesus' example.)
- Turn away from worthless idols and turn to the living God - Acts 14:15.
- NOTE: It is natural for people to replace things *backwards* - to abandon good and replace it with evil - Romans 1:18-32.

### JUST A REMINDER: YOU CANNOT DO BOTH GOOD AND EVIL

- Jesus describes it as trying to serve two masters - Matthew 6:24.
- James shows us that this applies even to our words - James 3:10-12.