

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

03 – Rom. 12:9b, 21

Romans 12:9-21

Most of the verbs and participles are commands (direct or implied), and they are present tense and active.

Command... **DO IT!**

Present tense... **NOW!**

Active... **KEEP ON DOING IT!**

You're probably asking...

SO WHAT?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A "PARTICIPLE" IS!

And here's the answer... →

This means they are

LIFESTYLE COMMANDS

COMMAND = "DO IT!"

- The things they say must define your life.

PRESENT TENSE = "NOW"

ACTIVE = "ONGOING"

yes
vs.
no

do
vs.
don't

start
vs.
stop

There are

"YES" COMMANDS

- For a "YES" lifestyle – things that must characterize your life.

There are

"NO" COMMANDS

- You must REPLACE the "NO" lifestyle with a "YES" lifestyle.

← **STOP** doing the one thing and **START** doing the other. →

SALVATION is FREE

- The only thing we can earn is **DEATH**.
- God offers us the free gift of **LIFE**.

WE EARN → **GOD GIVES**

For the wages of sin is **DEATH**, but the free gift of God is **ETERNAL LIFE** through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

Salvation is for a PURPOSE

— It cost Jesus a lot ... but he also accomplished a lot. AS SEEN ON THE NEXT PAGE

THE ACCOMPLISHMENT

He himself **bore our sins** in his body on the tree, so **that we might die to sins and live for righteousness**; by his **wounds** you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

THE COST

SALVATION results in "FOLLOWING"

— It enters us into a lifelong commitment of following Jesus.

— If we are saved, we will choose to do it... because Jesus says it cannot be any other way.

And you cannot be my disciple if you do not carry your own cross and follow me.

So no one can become my disciple without giving up everything for me.

Luke 14:27, 33 (NLT)

Since Jesus' followers want to follow, Scripture clearly shows us how to follow!

I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU!
WHAT MUST I DO?

— The necessary cost

— The necessary changes

EXAMPLES of these necessary changes are found in **Romans 12:9-21**

Romans 12:9-21 – A necessary change that must occur

I WANT TO FOLLOW YOU!
WHAT MUST I DO?

↓

Love must be without hypocrisy.

Romans 12:9a (LEB)

HOW DO I DO THAT?

READ FURTHER!

So... HOW do we make this change?

If we want "non-hypocritical" love, what must we do?

START HERE:

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Romans 12:9b (NIV)

THEN

KEEP READING, AND ...

END HERE:

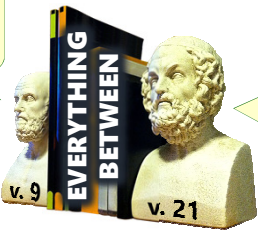
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 (NIV)

(You can keep on reading if you want; but this passage fits together as one unit.)

These two instructions are like "bookends" for the rest of the passage.

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."



"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

BOTH focus on the issue of EVIL vs. GOOD.

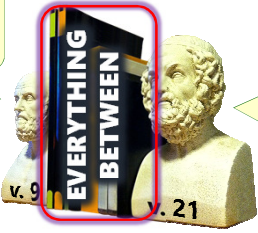
The DIFFERENCE?

- Verse 9b focuses on our attitude.
WHERE WE MUST START
 Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
 Romans 12:9b (NIV)
- Verse 21 focuses on our actions.
WHERE WE MUST FINISH
 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
 Romans 12:21 (NIV)

The OTHER VERSES?

- They teach us how to do these things.

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good."



"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

AND

- They guide us from "attitude" to "action."

It all depends on your choice ...

- Your attitude...
 ↓
 will determine...
 ↓
 Who (or what) has the victory.

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
 Romans 12:9b (NIV)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
 Romans 12:21 (NIV)

CLING TO THE GOOD...
 because it's the **GOOD** that wins the battle!

Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**.
 Romans 12:21 (NIV)

We can do it,*
 because **JESUS made it possible!** (as in 1 Peter 2:24)

He himself **bore our sins** in his body on the tree, so **that we might die to sins and live for righteousness** ...

* (Applies only to followers. Others don't have this power.)

KEY CONCEPT FOR TODAY

TO HAVE SINCERE, NON-HYPOCRITICAL LOVE...

- V. 9b – We need to develop the right attitude.
- V. 21 – This attitude must be transformed into action.

We get from v. 9b to v. 21 by accepting and living by the instructions of v. 10-20.

Your Mission...

(It's AN ONGOING PROCESS.)

- **LEARN:** the difference between "Good" and "Evil."
- **LIVE:** the difference between "GOOD" and "EVIL."

Then you will be living a VICTORIOUS LIFE!

Credits

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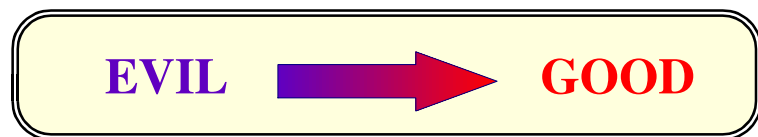
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Your Mission...

"Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:9b, 21 (NIV)



In the beginning, there was good.

To recognize it, we (the human race) needed to learn the *difference* between good and evil. But we chose to learn the *wrong* way - by doing evil (disobedience), rather than by doing good (obedience). See Genesis 1-3.

Now, evil (rather than good) has become our nature.

OUR NATURAL CONDITION

On the surface, we *can* do good things. But in the heart, evil characterizes our nature ... *according to Jesus* - Luke 11:13.

We are born with an evil, sinful nature.

- On our own, we *cannot* change - Jeremiah 13:23.
- But if we *don't* change, a horrible fate awaits us - Isaiah 5:20.
- (See also Romans 7:18; 8:5-8; Job 14:4.)

OUR HOPE IN CHRIST

Our sinful nature still fights (it dies slowly). But God gives his people a *new* nature. Through the power of Christ, we begin to desire what is *truly* good, and can have victory over evil - Romans 7:18-25.

By "feeding" on God's Word, we can grow in our ability to recognize the *true* nature of good and evil - Hebrews 5:14.

OUR CHANGE

Once genuine good is in our *heart*, it will show itself in our *actions* - Luke 6:45.

We need not fear the day of judgment, when *all* will be exposed - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; John 5:28-29.

A COMPLETE TURN-AROUND!

THE "RENEWED MIND" OF ROMANS 12:2 MAKES IT POSSIBLE...
THE INSTRUCTIONS OF ROMANS 12:9-21 MAKE IT HAPPEN! *

* (IF we're willing to follow them!)

Other Scripture passages to help focus our direction

Pursue a life you can *love*! 1 Peter 3:10-12; Psalm 34:11-16

Pursue wisdom! Romans 16:19b

Follow the right examples! Imitate the right things! 3 John 1:11

What do you seek? Proverbs 11:27

A good type of hate! Amos 5:15

If you have to suffer, here's the *best* way to do it. 1 Peter 3:17

Bad examples to avoid. Psalm 52:3; 109:5; Proverbs 17:13