

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

46 – Light of the world

Different ways to translate the basic concepts of Romans 12:17b.

NIV	Be careful to do	what is right	in the eyes of everybody.
NLT	Do things in such a way	that everyone can see	you are honorable.
NASB	Respect [Lit., Take thought for]	what is right	in the sight of all men.
GW	Focus your thoughts on	those things that are	considered noble.
ESV	give thought to do	what is honorable	in the sight of all.
ISV	focus your thoughts on	what is right	in the sight of all people.
WEB	Respect	what is honorable	in the sight of all men.
LEB	Take thought for	what is good	in the sight of all people.
NET	consider	what is good	before all people.
HCSB	Try to do	what is honorable	in everyone's eyes.

Attention; careful thinking; action (implied).	Morally good, right.	Done so that all can see it.
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Be careful to do what is **right** in
the eyes of everybody.

Romans 12:17b (NIV)

Be careful to do ...

Cautious pre-planning; thinking
about it ahead of time, so that you
can respond appropriately.

... what is right ...

What is morally good, right,
honorable, etc.

... in the eyes of everybody.

Visible for all to see.

Be careful to ...

Thinking ahead of time, preplanning;
then responding, based on those thoughts.

GOAL:

- To cautiously consider one's options.
- To respond appropriately. (Example: with no evil.)
- To not leave your response to emotions.

Thinking ahead of one's actions is a **necessary** part
of following Jesus.

- SALVATION itself requires us to think ahead!
(Most church-goers DON'T do this, and become
FAKES who wrongly think they are saved.)

In **SALVATION**, Jesus tells us to think ahead... Are we
REALLY willing to consider what it will cost us?

If you want to be my follower you must love me more
than your own father and mother, wife and children,
brothers and sisters—yes, more than your own life.
Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And you cannot
be my disciple if you do not carry your own cross and
follow me.

But don't begin until you count the cost.

[v. 28b-32: two examples to illustrate the **folly** of NOT
doing this.] ... So no one can become my disciple
without giving up everything for me.

Luke 14:26-28a, 33 (NLT)

... do what is right ...

Doing what is morally good, right, honorable, etc.

What type of "goodness" or "rightness" is this?

- There are two New Testament Greek words that are
normally translated as "GOOD" or "RIGHT."
- The word used here has a greater emphasis on the
moral aspect, the opposite of evil.

"Good" food?

"Good" people?

"Good" weather?

"Good" tree?
"Good" works?

... in the eyes of everybody.

Visible for all to see.

3 ISSUES to consider

#1

This does not mean that everyone will always approve of your good.

The world often approves of what is evil!

... they not only do [such] things but also approve of others who do them.

Romans 1:32b (GW)

[They] are very surprised when you no longer join them in the wicked things they do, and they say evil things about you.

1 Peter 4:4 (NLT)

We know that in the future – at the Day of Judgment – they will acknowledge the good.

- At that time, all people will answer to God for what they have done.

But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:5 (NIV)

But our theme verse refers to now, not to the future.

#2

Can an unsaved person ever recognize (and do) something that is good?

I'M AN ATHEIST,
AND I CAN DO
GOOD WITHOUT
GOD!

ONLY BECAUSE
I MADE IT
POSSIBLE!

YES!! There are some types of "goodness" that the world can recognize and approve.

- This is ONLY because God, in his gracious kindness, has put an awareness of it in their hearts.
- Without God's kindness, the unsaved world could not function!

[When they] instinctively follow what the law says, they show that in their hearts they know right from wrong. They demonstrate that God's law is written within them, for their own consciences either accuse them or tell them they are doing what is right.

Romans 2:14-15 (NLT)

Unfortunately, an awareness of what is good does not mean that people will accept and do it.

- Unsaved people distort the truth.
- It is only with a renewed mind that we can begin to consistently approve (and do) what is good.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

So at times, you may have to suffer for doing good.

Thank God that you don't always have to suffer!

- Since the world can sometimes recognize goodness (because of God's kindness), we find Scripture passages such as these:

UNSAVED PEOPLE MAY SOMETIMES THINK HIGHLY OF YOU:

[When you follow God's instructions] ... you will find favor with both God and people, and you will gain a good reputation.

Proverbs 3:4 (NLT)

[MORE] →

NORMALLY, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF THE GOVERNMENT:

For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

Romans 13:3 (NIV)

IT IS LESS LIKELY THAT PEOPLE WILL HARM YOU:

Who will harm you if you are devoted to doing what is good?

1 Peter 3:13 (GW)

#3

Even if they **DON'T** recognize your good, you must still do it!

Remember that they treated Jesus the same way.

WHAT JESUS DID:

Jesus went everywhere and did good things, ...

Acts 10:38b (GW)

WHAT THE LEADERS CLAIMED (WHEN THEY HANDED HIM OVER TO PILATE FOR JUDGMENT AND DEATH):

"If he weren't a criminal, we wouldn't have handed him over to you."

John 18:30b (GW)

If you have to suffer for doing good, follow Jesus' example, and **continue to do good**.

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

1 Peter 3:14-16 (GW)

3 1

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

&

CONCLUSION

#1

What GOD says about your good is all that matters!

PAUL'S ATTITUDE:

I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent.

It is the Lord who judges me.

1 Cor. 4:3-4 (NIV)

← NOT CONTROLLED BY PEOPLE'S OPINIONS (NOT EVEN ONE'S OWN)

← ATTEMPTING TO DO GOOD/RIGHT; AWARE OF IMPERFECTIONS

← AWARE OF THE ONE WHO DETERMINES RIGHT FROM WRONG

#2

**Make sure your good is done with
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)

- Scripture provides many instances in which good things were done in public. The issue here is one of MOTIVES, not the presence of people.

#3

**When you become weary,
don't give up!**

So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)



GOD KNOWS THE GOOD YOU DO!



"I know your works..."

Revelation 3:8 (WEB; also several other verses in chapters 2-3)

CONCLUSION:

**THE WORLD MUST SEE IN YOU
WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GOOD.**

- They need to see what genuine good is!
- God requires you to show them.

**AND THAT IS Your Mission
THIS WEEK!**

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)



**A GOOD MOTIVE FOR GOOD
THAT IS DONE IN PUBLIC!**

Your Mission...

Live the truly "good life"!

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)

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

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

**PRE-PLANNING to do what is right
BECAUSE people are watching you.**



KEY IDEA:

You are the light of the world - Matthew 5:14-16;
so live as children of the light - Ephesians 5:8;
like stars in a dark, evil world - Philippians 2:15-16.

HOW YOU ARE TO LIVE:

- Be wise and careful in how you live (doing God's will); using the opportunities God gives you to converse about the truth - Colossians 4:5-6; Ephesians 5:15-17.
- Test everything; pursue what is good; expose what is evil - 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Ephesians 5:8-11+.
- Following Paul's example and the way of love - Philippians 4:8-9; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 13.
- Your necessary goal: doing what is right (in God's sight, and if possible, in the eyes of people); doing what is good for others - 2 Corinthians 8:20-21; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1.

- A warning: Beware of false motives; be aware that you cannot hide the "real" you forever - Matthew 6:1; 23:5; 1 Timothy 5:24-25.

***DON'T GIVE PEOPLE A REASON TO SPEAK AGAINST GOD, HIS
WORD, OR YOU (WHO CLAIM TO BE HIS SERVANT)!***

- Don't be a stumbling block to others; don't misuse your "Christian freedom" (tempting others to sin by what you do); don't quarrel among yourselves - Romans 14:16; 2 Corinthians 6:3; 1 Corinthians 6:6-7; 8:13; 10:28-30.
- Be aware that others are influenced by how you interact with others in your family, as well as by how you lead or serve others - 1 Timothy 5:14; 6:1; Titus 2:2-10.

YOUR CONDUCT WILL INFLUENCE OTHERS.

- When you sin and do evil, the unsaved will tend to blaspheme God, slander his people, malign the truth, etc. - Romans 2:24 (and several of the verses already listed).
- When you do what is right and good, you will win their respect; and they will be ashamed of their behavior and will someday glorify God, etc. - 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 2:12; 3:16 (and several of the verses already listed).