

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

48 – Preplanning – Hindrances 1

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

The basic concept ...

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

Can also be translated as ...

- Focus your thoughts on ...
- Consider ...
- Try to do ...

Hindrances to pre-planning (1)

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

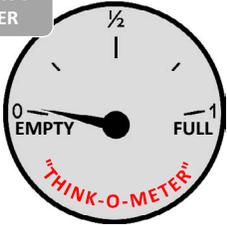
- There are certain things that hinder our ability to obey this verse.
- These are the same things that hinder other aspects of our spiritual growth.

Hindrance #1

Ignorance or lack of knowledge



IT DOESN'T MATTER



Hindrance #1

Ignorance or lack of knowledge



NO NEED TO "CAREFULLY CONSIDER" WHAT I SHOULD DO!

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

Ignorance

A characteristic of UNSAVED people – whether or not they are religious. (This includes many "church-goers.")

They are darkened in their understanding, being alienated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts.
Ephesians 4:18 (NET)

Ignorance

↻

This results in sin – which is not an option for God's people.

As obedient children, do not be shaped by the desires that used to influence you when you were **ignorant**.
1 Peter 1:14 (ISV)

Come to your senses and stop sinning, for some people are **ignorant** about God. I say this to your shame.
1 Cor. 15:34 (HCSB)

Ignorance

↻

This results in sin – which is not an option for God's people.

HE WAS SAYING THIS TO CHURCH-GOERS!!

As

some people are ignorant about God.

Come to your senses and stop sinning, for some people are **ignorant** about God. I say this to your shame.
1 Cor. 15:34 (HCSB)

Ignorance

THEY HAD THE SAME PROBLEM THAT EXISTS IN MOST CHURCHES TODAY – PEOPLE WHO "GO TO CHURCH," BUT WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD.

This results in sin – which is not an option for God's people.

As

some people are ignorant about God.

Come to your senses and stop sinning, for some people are **ignorant** about God. I say this to your shame.
1 Cor. 15:34 (HCSB)

Ignorance

↻

This is in direct disobedience to God, who commands us to grow in knowledge/understanding.

But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2Peter 3:18a (WEB)

There are also many Scripture passages that tell us to:

- Know or understand something, or...
- Don't be ignorant or uninformed about something.

Hindrane #2
Not applying the knowledge to life



IT DOESN'T MATTER

Hindrane #2
Not applying the knowledge to life



NO NEED TO "DO" ANYTHING!

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

Inactive, not "doing"

A characteristic of UNSAVED people
– whether or not they are religious.

Whoever **does not do** what is right
is not of God, ...

1 John 3:10b (HCSB)

The one who does good is of God; the
one who does evil has not seen God.

3 John 1:11b (HCSB)

Inactive, not "doing"

They might be "church-goers," but they are
spiritually **dead**.

In the same way, faith by itself is **dead** if it
doesn't cause you to do any good things.

James 2:17 (GW)

A body that doesn't breathe is **dead**. In the
same way faith that does nothing is **dead**.

James 2:26 (GW)

Inactive, not "doing"

Saved people will pay attention to God's commands.

... **never tire of doing** what is right.

2 Thes. 3:13b (NIV)

I WILL DO
WHAT GOD
COMMANDS!

Little children, let no one deceive you!

The one who does what is right is righteous,
just as He [Jesus] is righteous.

The one who commits sin is of the Devil, ...

1 John 3:7-8a (GW)

Hindrance #3 Fakeness, pretension

IT DOESN'T
MATTER



IT CONTRADICTS THE
THEME FOR THIS ENTIRE
SECTION OF ROMANS 12!

Love must be **sincere**.*

Romans 12:9a (NIV)

*("unhypocritical")

Hindrance #3 Fakeness, pretension

I STILL
KNOW!



PUT ON ENOUGH
MASKS & THEY'LL NEVER
KNOW!

... Satan himself **masquerades**
as an angel of light.

YOU MAY
EVEN FOOL
YOURSELF.

I'M SO-O-O-O
"ANGELIC"!

It is not surprising, then, if his
servants **masquerade** as
servants of righteousness.

Their end will be what their
actions deserve.

2 Cor. 11:14-15 (NIV)

This involves DECEPTION.
 It is a contradiction of our theme verse!

★ **WHETHER OR NOT** ★
THE DECEPTION IS DELIBERATE

↓

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

✓ This is where verses such as Matthew 6:1 fit in...
Wrong motives... Wrong attitudes... Etc.

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)

✓ You may deceive others.
 ✓ You may deceive yourself.

But evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse as they **deceive** others and are themselves **deceived.**
2 Timothy 3:13 (ISV)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so **deceive** yourselves. Do what it says.
James 1:22 (NIV)

People who do these things don't normally call themselves "evil people and impostors." They tend to claim they are good!

✓ Your pretension may be deliberate.

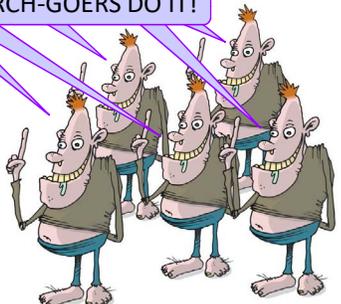
They do all their deeds to be seen by people, ...
Matthew 23:5a (NET)

✓ It may be unplanned, done without thought...
SUCH AS ...

... such as the result of peer pressure.

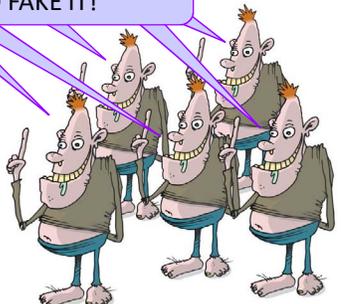
ALL GOOD CHURCH-GOERS DO IT!

★ But regardless of the reason for your fakeness or pretension...



DO IT, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO FAKE IT!

... it's *still* deception, and a barrier between *you* and doing what is *good*.

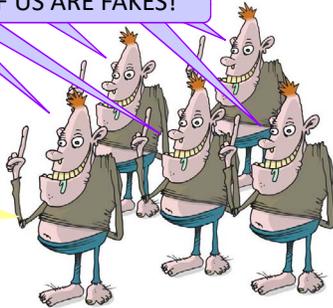


THE HORRIBLENESS OF FAKENESS

NONE OF US ARE FAKES!

Friend deceives friend,
and no one speaks the truth.

Jeremiah 9:5a (NIV)



Hindrance #4
Your attitude toward God

NEXT WEEK

Your Mission...

We've placed much focus on "pre-planning"
to do what is good, because most people
make no effort to do it.

IF THIS DESCRIBES YOU, THEN ...

- 1) Find out what hinders you, and
- 2) Take seriously your responsibility to do something about it.

Credits (1)

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Credits (2)

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Your Mission...

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

✱ OBSTACLES TO OBEYING THIS VERSE. ✱

IGNORANCE - NOT AN OPTION.

Willful vs. unintentional ignorance: There is a difference.

- Some people have an opportunity to know the truth, but have chosen to *not* do so. They will be judged more severely. They are in danger of having hardened hearts; and God may even take away their opportunity to be saved. (Many church-goers are in this category.) 2 Peter 2:12 (people who have turned away from the truth - to be destroyed); 2 Peter 3:5 (deliberate forgetfulness); 2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12 (condemnation; truth must be *loved*, and they weren't willing); Romans 1:18-32+ (suppressing the truth and its consequences); 1 Thessalonians 2:15-16 (the religious people who rejected Paul's message; their initial rejection may have been unintentional, but continued rejection turned it into willful ignorance that brought God's wrath upon them).
- Some people do not realize they have opposed the truth. There is a greater tendency for God to have mercy on such people (though he has *no* obligation to have mercy on *anyone*). 1 Timothy 1:13-14 (God had mercy on Paul); Acts 3:17 and Luke 23:34 (describes many of the Jews who killed Jesus, though continued rejection of the truth changed it into willful ignorance - see the above section).

Scripture often *commands* us to *not* be ignorant. EXAMPLES:

- The significance of God's kindness (Romans 2:4); ignorance about God's righteousness can be *eternally* fatal (Romans 10:3).
- The significance of a Christian's union with Christ (Romans 6:1-4+); spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1).
- Issues pertaining to Jew vs. Gentile (Romans 11:25); the value of the Old Testament (1 Corinthians 10:1-6); etc.
- About the resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
- The devil's tricks (2 Corinthians 2:11 - they understood them).

NOT DOING WHAT GOD COMMANDS - NOT AN OPTION.

- To know the truth, but not do it, is an act of sin. People who live this way may deceive themselves into thinking they are saved; but God sees past their pretension. James 1:22-25 (they deceive themselves); 1 John 2:4; 3:10 (they lie about their salvation, for they are *not* God's children); John 14:15, 23-24; 15:10 (they do not love Jesus, and his love does not remain in them); 1 John 5:3 (they do not love God).

PRETENSION AND FAKENESS - NOT AN OPTION.

- Motives are an important factor! Are you trying to exalt yourself, or God (which would require you to *humble* yourself)? Are you trying to impress people, or cover-up the truth, or be what you *aren't*? Luke 16:15 (God knows your heart); Galatians 1:10 and 1 Thessalonians 2:4-6a (following God is incompatible with being a "people pleaser"); Matthew 6:1 (no further reward from God); Revelation 3:14-22 (God saw what they were *really* like - they needed to repent!); James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5 (do you *really* want God to oppose you?); Romans 2:17 (an example of "fakes" who thought they were special, but they actually turned people away from God).