

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)
 56 – Vengeance – Intro

FOLLOWING JESUS

INVOLVES

WITHOUT THESE... A person is simply NOT following Jesus.

ROMANS 12:9-21
ILLUSTRATES THIS REQUIREMENT.

✓ Certain changes are to be made.

✓ Certain actions are to be done.

ROMANS 12:9-21

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; hold on to that which is good.
10 Concerning love of the brothers, be affectionate to one another; concerning honor, respect one another.
11 Concerning diligence, do not be hesitant; concerning the spirit, be eager; concerning the Lord, serve him.
12 Concerning confidence, rejoice; concerning troubles, be patient; concerning prayer, be constant.
13 Share in the needs of the saints, and give yourselves to hospitality.
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.

16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not think in proud ways, but accept lowly people. Do not be wise in your own thoughts.
17 Repay no one evil for evil. Do good things in the sight of all people.
18 If possible, as much as it lies with you, be at peace with all people.
19 Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but give way to the wrath of God. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay," says the Lord.
20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. For if you do this, you will heap coals of fire on his head."
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

(Translation = ULB)

ROMANS 12:9-21

v. 9 Sincere (unhypocritical) love.
 Rejecting evil; clinging to good.

v. 10 Love for other Christians; honor, respect.

v. 11 Rejecting a lazy spirit; eagerly serving the Lord in all you do.

v. 12 Rejoicing, patience, praying.

ROMANS 12:9-21

v. 13 Sharing with other Christians, helping them.

v. 14 Blessing one's persecutors, not cursing them.

v. 15 Sharing in the joys and sorrows of others.

v. 16 Being of one mind with others; accepting the "lowly"; not proud or "self-focused."

ROMANS 12:9-21

v. 17 Repaying with good, not evil.

v. 18 Peace-promoting.

v. 19 Not vengeful; leaving ultimate justice to God.

v. 20 Being proactive in love.

v. 21 Overcoming evil (not overcome by it).

When we began this study of unhyprocritical, sincere love...

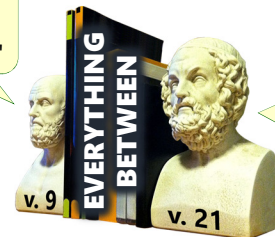
WE LEARNED:

- ✓ **THE FIRST AND LAST VERSES:**
 - These were like "bookends" to the rest of the passage.
 - They show us the attitude and actions that are a part of this love.
- ✓ **THE VERSES BETWEEN:**
 - These show us how to get to this love.

To have unhyprocritical, sincere love, we must...

START HERE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS END HERE

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



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

Scripture quotations • NIV

TODAY:

We turn to the last instruction for attaining this goal ...

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)



It involves changes we must make, and actions we must take.

The issue:

is

JUSTICE

DO YOU DESIRE JUSTICE?

GOD DOES!

The Lord is a God of justice.

Blessed are all those who wait for him.

Isaiah 30:18b (GW)

And he will make it happen.

I am ready to vindicate, I am ready to deliver, I will establish justice among the nations.

Isaiah 51:5a (NET)

WHEN THE WICKED SEEM TO PROSPER, ARE YOU TEMPTED TO ASK QUESTIONS SUCH AS THESE?

Why do the wicked live, reach old age, and grow mighty in power?

Job 21:7 (ESV)

"Where is the God of justice?"

Malachi 2:17b (NASB)

★ If so, Romans 12:19-20 is for you. ★

ARE YOU TEMPTED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO YOUR OWN HANDS?

"I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will pay him back according to what he has done."

Proverbs 24:29b (NET)

- Do you tend to overlook the first part of this verse?

Do not say, ...

Proverbs 24:29a (NET)

★ If so, Romans 12:19-20 is for you. ★

HAVE SUCH THOUGHTS NEVER ENTER YOUR MIND?

★ Then still, Romans 12:19-20 is for you. ★

- This passage tells us not only "what not" to do, ... ➤ Don't take revenge; let God do it.
- ... but it is a constant reminder of "what" to do. ➤ Be proactive in expressing love.

The desire for justice is NOT wrong ...

>> Justice for YOURSELF and for OTHERS. <<

Vindicate me, O God, ...

Psalms 43:1a (NASB)

Grant me justice against my adversary.

Luke 18:3b (NIV)

Remember, O my God, all the evil things that [they] have done.

Neh. 6:14a (NLT)

★ The problem is in the way we try to attain it. ★

PROBLEM: We tend to have a one-sided focus.

- ✓ It's EASY to want justice when others have wronged us.
- ✓ It's NOT SO EASY to want justice when it is we who have wronged them.

⌈ This is just as important... and should be our first priority! ⌋

IN CONTRAST: God is fair to all.

For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2:11 (NLT)

A BETTER FOCUS

(Begin with yourself and be consistent about it!)

Whatever measure you use in judging others, it will be used to measure how you are judged.

Hypocrite! First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

Matthew 7:2b, 5 (NLT)

(Be constantly aware of your own weaknesses.)

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

PROBLEM: Our concept of "justice" tends to be distorted by...

- ✓ Our own sins.
- ✓ Ignorance of the Scriptures.
- ✓ Our personal experiences in life.

IN CONTRAST: God's justice is without flaw.

As for God, his way is perfect ...

Psalms 18:30a (NIV)

"Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."

Rev. 16:7b (NIV)

PROBLEM: We tend to want justice to fit our schedule.

I WANT THEM
PUNISHED
NOW!

IN CONTRAST: God brings justice at the right time.

- ✓ God will bring justice.
- ✓ When he delays, it is for a purpose.

The Lord isn't slow to do what he promised, as some people think. Rather, he is patient for your sake.

He doesn't want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act.

2 Peter 3:9 (GW)

Your Mission...

**AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS:
PURSUE A LIFE OF LOVE.**



**LET CHANGE AND ACTION, BASED ON SCRIPTURE,
CHARACTERIZE YOUR LIFE.**

>> EVEN AS IT APPLIES TO YOUR CONCEPT OF "JUSTICE" <<

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

**"Do not take revenge, my friends,
but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written:
'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."
Romans 12:19**

The issue here has to do with *judging*. Judging and justice have to do with rewards or punishments for what one has done (whether good or evil). Revenge and vengeance focus on the punishment aspect, when wrongs have been committed.

Judging OR *NOT* Judging

It's a matter of *context*.

JUDGING – COMMANDED, PERMITTED, CONSIDERED A PRAISEWORTHY ACTION

The Scriptures give us many commands and examples of *right* judging, and the requirements for making a right judgment. Such actions are *always* required and judged as praiseworthy by God.

Some random examples and principles that illustrate *right* judging (mostly from the New Testament).

- People's consciences judge them - Romans 2:14-15.
- We are to judge the rightness/wrongness of moral matters, and cling to the good - 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.
- Judging by civil authorities - Romans 13:1-7 (and many examples in both Old and New Testaments).

- The church (as individuals and as a group) judging people within the church - Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5.
- Judging whether or not a person is qualified to be a leader in the church - 1 Timothy 3:10 (in this example, a deacon).
- Judging the moral character of people (saved, unsaved), by their deeds ("fruit") - Luke 6:43-45; especially false teachers - Matthew 7:15-20; Philippians 3:2 (example). (But we must deal with our own selves first - Matthew 7:2, 5.)
- Impartial judging required - Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:17; Proverbs 24:23; Matthew 7:2.
- Judging as a representative of God - 2 Chronicles 19:6.

JUDGING – PROHIBITED, CONDEMNED

The Scriptures give us many examples of *wrong* judging and the reasons it is wrong. Such actions are always condemned – judged as evil by God.

Some random examples and principles that illustrate *wrong* judging (mostly from the New Testament).

- Being eager to judge others, while ignoring one's own sins - Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 2:1-3.
- Judging based on superficial appearances - John 7:23-24.
- Favoritism and distortions of justice - Exodus 23:2-3; Leviticus 19:15; judging based on social status - James 2:1-4.
- Condemning people in matters of personal preference (i.e., non-moral issues; activities permitted, but not required, by God) - Romans 14:1-13.
- Asking unsaved people to judge in conflicts between saved people - 1 Corinthians 6:1-6.
- Slander, false judgment - James 4:11.