

# LOVE

## Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

### 65 – Expressions of God's love

#### Romans 12:19-20

★ Our job is to obey the commands. ★  
God will take care of the rest.

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)

**COMMAND:** "Don't do it!"  
**REASON:** "It's GOD's job to do it!"

**COMMAND:** "Do it!"

**FACT:** "Something will happen."

#### Romans 12:19-20

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath ...

**PATIENTLY WAIT**  
for God's time.

On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink..."

Romans 12:19a, 20a (NIV)

**ACT** with kindness  
toward them.

This is a quote from the Old Testament. It proves that God's requirements have not changed.

**WE SHOULD ALSO PRAY:**  
✓ That WE will have the right attitude  
✓ That THEY will repent and become friends.

#### "ON THE CONTRARY"

This phrase **CONNECTS** the verses and **SHOWS** us that ...

Do not take revenge, ...

On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry ... if he is thirsty..."

Romans 12:19a, 20a (NIV)

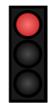
- **Passively avoiding revenge** (v. 19) – and nothing more – doesn't result in obedience to this passage.
- **Actively expressing kindness** (v. 20) is a necessary part of obedience to this passage.



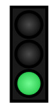
Many commands in Scripture involve replacement of one type of conduct with another. We are to **STOP** the one and **START** the other.



#### REPLACE **EVIL** with **GOOD!**



The devil likes it when we **STOP** sinning, but fail to **START** doing what is righteous!



"When an evil spirit comes out of a person, it goes through dry places looking for a place to rest.

But it doesn't find any. Then it says, 'I'll go back to the home I left.' When it comes, it finds the house swept clean and in order.

Then the spirit goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself. They enter and take up permanent residence there.

**In the end the condition of that person is worse than it was before."**

Luke 11:24-26 (GW)

#### FOOD & DRINK?

... "If your enemy is **hungry**, feed him; if he is **thirsty**, give him something to drink..."

Romans 12:20a (NIV)

- ✓ These represent anything that falls into the category of "expressing mercy and kindness"!

We can focus on both physical and eternal needs.

*The book of Proverbs contains many practical ways to express love.*

# A NECESSITY...

## NOT JUST A NICE OPTION!

### God requires you to have love and kindness for your **"BROTHERS and SISTERS"**

'For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

And the King will tell them, 'I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these **my brothers and sisters**, you were doing it to me!'

Matthew 25:35-36, 40 (NLT)

✓ When you do it to them, you are doing it to God.

### There are serious consequences if you don't do it...

And he will answer, 'I assure you, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.

Matthew 25:45-46 (NLT)

★ But you are to be kind not only to your **"brothers and sisters"** ... ★

### God requires you to have love and kindness for your **ENEMIES**.

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!

In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.

For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too.

Matthew 5:44-45 (NLT)

✓ Consider how kind God was to you!

Or are you unaware ... that it is God's kindness that is leading you to repent?

Romans 2:4b (ISV)

### There are serious consequences if you don't do it...

If you love only those who love you, what good is that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.

If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.

But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

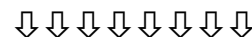
Matthew 5:46-48 (NLT)

★ ✓ Do you want to be part of God's family...

OR: ✓ Do you want to be no different than an unsaved person?

# WHY LOVE THEM?

## (IT'S NOT JUST A NICE OPTION!)



**BECAUSE GOD CALLS US  
TO BE DIFFERENT**

(It's part of what it means to "follow" Jesus.)

**YES... but!**

**YES**, they did evil;  
there will be punishment.

**BUT** Jesus offers to take their punishment, just like he took yours.

YOUR EXPRESSION OF LOVE  
MAY MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE.

**BUT I WOULD PREFER IF THEY BURNED IN HELL!**

**THAT'S AN EVIL DESIRE!**

**DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT HAPPENS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE OVERCOME BY EVIL?**

The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers.  
**But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil.**

1 Peter 3:12 (NLT)

**GOD SAVES PEOPLE SO THEY WILL RESPOND IN A DIFFERENT WAY!**

If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Matthew 6:14-15 (NLT)

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Col. 3:13b (GW)

**MAKE IT YOUR GOAL TO OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD!**

**OTHERWISE, EVIL WILL OVERCOME YOU!**

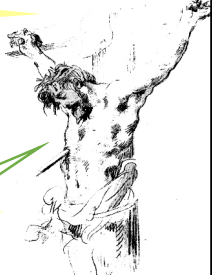
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21 (NIV)

**Have the attitude that Jesus had!**

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them."

[Luke 23:34a (GW)]



**IF ANYONE EVER HAD A RIGHT TO "GET EVEN," IT WAS JESUS, WHEN JUDAS BETRAYED HIM!**

PETER:  
**LET'S KILL THEM ALL!**


JESUS:  
**PUT AWAY YOUR SWORD!**

... he entrusted himself to [God] who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:23b (NIV)

Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."

[Matthew 26:50a (NIV)]



**Suppose they don't repent and become saved...**

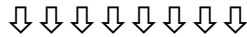
✓ It would be wonderful if they did become saved! But it doesn't always happen.

✓ If God's love is in you, you will love them regardless of their response.

MY KINDNESS TO YOU IS A REFLECTION OF THE KINDNESS GOD HAD TO ME!

Remember that Romans 12:9-21 focuses on "commitment-love." It can exist whether or not "emotional-love" or "friendship-love" is present.

# WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT?



**BECAUSE THE SINFUL NATURE  
DOESN'T WANT US TO BE DIFFERENT**

(It doesn't want us to "follow" Jesus.)

## WHY is KINDNESS so difficult?

**THE SINFUL NATURE WE WERE BORN WITH:**

- ✓ Tries to get us to either:
  - Not do the good... OR
  - Do the good with sinful motives or attitudes.
- ✓ Wants us to be overcome by evil.

... **slaves to sin**, which  
leads to death ...

Romans 6:16b (NIV)



**THE SINFUL NATURE WANTS US TO RETURN  
TO ITS PRISON**

OUR ORIGINAL  
CONDITION:

But the Scriptures have  
declared that we are all  
**prisoners of sin**,  
so the only way to receive  
God's promise is to  
believe in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:22 (NLT)

OUR HOPE:

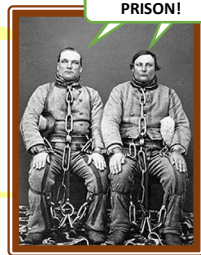
... Jesus came to take away  
our sins, ...

1 John 3:5b (NLT)

NO NEED  
TO REMAIN  
PRISONERS!

"OUR UNSAVED  
CONDITION"

WE **LOVE** OUR  
PRISON!



(When looking at previous verses, we saw that...)

**THE SINFUL NATURE IS TOO POWERFUL FOR US;**

**WE NEED GOD'S POWER!**

THE PROBLEM

... I am unspiritual, sold as **a slave to sin**. ...  
What a wretched man I am! Who will  
rescue me from this body of death?

Romans 7:14b, 24 (NIV)

THE SOLUTION

Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ  
our Lord!

Romans 7:25a (NIV)

**We CAN overcome!**  
(but not in our own power)

IN THE POWER  
OF CHRIST

... Christ the **power** of God and the  
wisdom of God.

1 Cor. 1:24b (NIV)

AS WE TRUST HIM

For every child of God defeats this evil world  
by trusting Christ to give the **victory**.

1 John 5:4 (NLT)

WHEN GOD'S WORD  
LIVES IN US

... you are **strong** and God's word lives in you.  
You have won the **victory** over the evil one.

1 John 2:14b (GW)

THE EVIL ONE = the source of evil.

**WHEN WE OVERCOME EVIL,  
IT'S NOT US, BUT THE GOOD THAT WE DO.**



**GOOD THAT COMES  
NOT FROM US,  
BUT FROM GOD!**

... overcome evil with **good**.

Romans 12:21b (NIV)

I know that nothing **good** lives in  
me, that is, in my sinful nature.

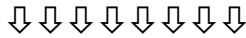
Romans 7:18a (NIV)

For we are God's workmanship, created in  
Christ Jesus to do **good** works, which  
God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephes. 2:10 (NIV)

# GOD'S POWER...

(which makes the good possible)



## RESULTS IN BLESSINGS!

### OBEYING OUR THEME PASSAGE IS A DISPLAY OF GOD'S POWER!

Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath ...

On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him  
something to drink..."

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

Romans 12:19a, 20a, 21 (NIV)

OVERCOMING  
EVIL! WHAT AN  
AMAZING DISPLAY  
OF GOD'S POWER!

When **God's power** is seen  
in our lives,  
it results in blessings!

- ✓ We are being a blessing to our enemies!
- ✓ We are overcoming evil!

→ It also results in blessings



**FOR OURSELVES!**

(Not self-centered blessings, but blessings that will last!)

### When you do good...

- ✓ God is using the evil that OTHERS do, to accomplish good in YOUR life.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose...

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

ONE OF THOSE GOOD THINGS IS THIS:

### When you overcome evil ...

- ✓ You are overcoming the evil that lurks in your own heart!

## Your Mission...

**YOU CAN ONLY CHOOSE ONE  
WAY... CHOOSE WISELY!**

If you choose to  
get revenge...



- ✓ You are overcome by evil.
- ✓ The end result is ugly.

If you choose to  
express love...



- ✓ Your good overcomes evil.
- ✓ The end result is beautiful.

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# Your Mission...

**"Do not take revenge, ... On the contrary:  
'If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink...'  
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."  
Romans 12:19a, 20a, 21**

## **FOLLOWING JESUS**

includes expressing love and kindness to those you think deserve revenge.

### **WHO CAN FOLLOW JESUS?**

- *Temporary following:* The crowds (the "fakes") can follow Jesus - just like they did when he was present on earth (Matthew 4:24-25; 8:1; etc.). They can say wonderful things about Jesus (Matthew 21:9); they can choose to follow him because of perceived benefits that they might receive (Matthew 19:2; John 6:2). They can express commitment to following Jesus (Matthew 8:19-22); but when things don't go well, or perceived benefits cease to come, *they can also turn away* (John 6:66).
- *Permanent following:* Genuine disciples can also follow Jesus - just like they did when he was present on earth (Matthew 4:18-22; 9:9; etc.). But they will take heed to Jesus' warnings about what it means to "follow" him (see below) ... and *they don't turn away* (John 6:67-69). Those who belong to Jesus (his "sheep") will follow *him* and will *not* follow someone else (John 10:1-18, 27-28).

### **What are the requirements for following Jesus?**

- It requires *total* commitment: Jesus must have first priority over *everything* else in life (Matthew 10:37-39; 16:24-27; John 12:25-26). *Anything* that gets in the way must be put aside (Luke 14:25-33; example: Mark 10:21).
- The consequences of following include blessings - now and eternally (Mark 10:29-30; Luke 18:29-30; John 8:12). But it also includes persecution (Mark 10:30b) and suffering (1 Peter 2:20b-22) - and a willingness to continue following, when such things occur (example - John 21:18-22).

### **FOLLOWING ("IMITATING") GOOD EXAMPLES**

The "act of following" can be summarized by the word "love," as defined throughout the Scriptures. Love for God has to do with giving God first place in our lives, obeying him, and living lives that are morally pure. The passage we have been studying (Romans 12:9-21) illustrates what it means to have love for other people.

In addition to *defining* what it means to "follow," Scripture also gives us *examples* to follow (or "imitate"). These can be summarized by this basic principle: We should "imitate" what is "good" (3 John 1:11) - but we must realize that, ultimately, *God* is the source of all that is good!

### **Good examples for us to follow.**

- God provides the ultimate example of love, in what Jesus Christ did for us (Ephesians 5:1-2).
- We should follow the examples of people *only* to the extent that *they* follow God (1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:6).
- Human examples to follow: Paul (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1) and his associates (1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9); godly leaders (Hebrews 13:7); and others in the church who are faithful to God (1 Thessalonians 2:14; Hebrews 6:12).