

# Romans 12: Living the Resurrected Life

*Do What Is Right In The Eyes Of Everyone - Romans 12:17*

## **Do What Is Right In The Eyes Of Everyone**

- “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:8-10
- “Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” James 1:22
- “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?...In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder.” James 2:14,17-19
- Biblical faith is a faith of action. The resurrected lifestyle is not just lived in quiet communion with God in the safety of our quiet times and church services. It is a lifestyle of living and acting like Jesus in a world that is lost and rebelling against God.
- We weren’t saved by God just to get a ticket into heaven; but to be a faithful workman, doing what is right on the earth and furthering His kingdom.
- Jesus said that if you’d seen Him, you had seen His Father. He didn’t sit in the temple everyday and expect the world to come to Him for religious philosophy classes. No, He walked through the mess and hardship of the real world - doing what was right in every situation with every person.
- Father, we surrender to your will. Please change us to be like Jesus today.

## **Knowing The “Right” Thing To Do**

- “Be careful to do what is right...” The word “right” is translated from a Greek word that literally means, “that which is chiefly (most importantly) good, fair, honest, worthy.” (Strong’s Concordance)
- In a world full of deception, half truths, and relativism; how can we know what is right, fair, and honest in order to do it?
  1. **Don’t Listen to the World** - “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight.” 1 Corinthians 3:19

2. **Know the Truths of the Bible** - “The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:7
3. **Know the Spirit of Truth** - “He will guide you into all truth.” John 16:13

### **Consistently Doing The Right Thing**

- “Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.” Romans 12:17
- The phrase “be careful to do” is translated from a Greek word that literally means, “to consider in advance, to look out for beforehand, to provide.” (Strong’s)
- It is very possible to know all the right things to do but refuse to actually do them. This is what the pharisees did and Jesus said they were like painted tombs - pretty on the outside and full of death on the inside.
- We don’t want to live like that. We want to actually be doing the right things in an obedient and pleasing lifestyle to God.
- So what does that practically look like in my everyday life?

### **How?**

1. Start the day in His presence and His truth.
  - “Oh God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you;” Psalm 63:1
  - “Earnestly” literally means, “diligently seek by rising at dawn.” (Strong’s)
  - It is humanly impossible to consider in advance all the the situations we will be in during the day that will require us to do the right thing. There’s no way we can know that.
  - But God does! He is fully aware of every detail of our life for the day. If we humble ourselves before Him and surrender our will to His - He will prepare us for all the good works of the day.
  - As we start the day in the Scriptures with the leading of the Spirit, God will arm us with everything we need to do the honest thing in every situation.
2. Abide in Christ rather than trying to produce.
  - “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him; he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5
  - It is interesting that one of the literal translations of “be careful to do” is “to provide.” We don’t have to come up with the solution to every problem we face in a day. We simply have to stay connected to Jesus and “provide” what He has produced.

- We don't need to stress and worry about all the problems of the world around us today. We just need to stay in communion with Jesus and trust that He has already provided everything we need to be successful and productive. "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness..." 2 Peter 1:3

### 3. Fear God more than people.

- "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28. "But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29
- Many of us struggle with doing what God wants us to do in certain audiences. Yet the Scripture says to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. Whether it be a boss, teammates, successful people, intelligent people, strangers - the audience cannot dictate our obedience.
- The world around us has many different definitions of what is "right" to them. If we listen long enough, even the most vile things begin to be acceptable.
- We are committed to obey God rather than man because He is right and He is our Lord. We refuse to bow to the desires of this world. What can man do to us? "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31.

### 4. Repent and be accountable.

- "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." 2 Timothy 2:22. "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed." James 5:16
- Living the resurrected lifestyle along side of others with the same goal; and willfully choosing to be accountable to them will help ensure that we do the right thing in difficult circumstances.
- If you're serious about walking in obedience to God, humble yourself and submit to specific accountability in every area of your life. You will experience righteousness, healing, and effectiveness as a result of God's promise.
- Who is pursuing God along with you? Who do you confess your sins to that will pray for you and help you to be healed?

### 5. Prevent brokenness with the Spirit.

- “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:30-32
- The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift God has given us on this planet. He is our source of power, peace, truth, conviction, and communication with God.
- When we retaliate evil for evil, we grieve Him. “Grieve” literally means, “to be sad, to cause grief, to be heavy, sorrowful, to make sorry.” (Strong’s)
- We are completely dependent on the Spirit for every breath and moment if we are to be pleasing to God. We don’t want to grieve Him, and refusing to repay evil for evil will ensure our fellowship.

### **So How Do I Not Repay Evil For Evil**

1. Start the day by dying to sin and your flesh. (Romans 6:11, Galatians 2:20)
2. Start the day being filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:22-23) It’s essential to start everyday by be emptied of the flesh and filled with the Spirit because we never know when evil will be flung at us. If we wait till that moment, we will often respond in our fleshly desires and retaliate.
3. Go to God immediately. (Matthew 6:33, Romans 12:19) When someone hurts us, we tend to talk to ourselves, friends, and others first. Go to God immediately and talk to Him about it. His Spirit will lead us to do right.
4. Let your warrior Spirit rise up. (Romans 8:13, Galatians 5:16) Don’t be a spiritual sissy; let the Spirit empower you to do the hard but productive things.
5. Choose to bless them. (Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:27) Make the willful choice to pray for them, say something good about them, or anonymously bless them.