



**INSTRUCTION**  
**INSTRUCTION**  
*Manual*  
**INSTRUCTION**

Instruction manuals can be annoying to follow if the person who designed them didn't think through it properly. We are blessed that God thought about how we should live our Christian life and penned it via Paul who was writing to the Romans in Chapter 12. I encourage you to read the whole chapter, but we will only pick out Vs 9-12.

*Romans 12:9-12 (NKJV)*

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.*

## **DAY 1 - ORIGINAL FAKES**

*Romans 12:9*

*Let love be without hypocrisy... (NKJV)*

*Love must be sincere... (NIV)*

*Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them... (NLT)*

Can you get what Paul is trying to say here? Our love should be real. Loving people should be what we do right? If there was a hallmark to our faith it should be our love.

*Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. (John 13:35 NLT)*

Jesus makes it clear to us that it's our love that will be known to the world! Therefore, our love demonstrated to others must not be fake, it has to be meaningful and genuine.

In Turkey they sell these replica items called 'Original fakes'. They are items that are produced to look like the real thing, but they are not the real deal. You can see that the quality doesn't line up properly, the stitching isn't quite right, the spelling of the designer has an extra vowel in it. It's an original fake and our love must not be so.

Let that sink in for a second, there is a type of love that is not real! A type that is self-seeking, abusive and corrosive. The love that we demonstrate must look like the love we know from the Father: pure, sacrificial and hopeful.

God, help me love like how You do. Help me to produce the kind of love towards others that looks and feels like the love that You show to me.

## DAY 2 - JUST LIKE GOD

### **Romans 12:9**

*...Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. (NKJV)*

*...Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. (NLT)*

*...Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good. (AMP).*

Paul instructs us here to hate, detest, be revolted by and despise what is evil. In the same breath, to cling to, hold onto, grab hold of what is good. Understand we are not told to hate the person but rather the things that are not from God; the mess up and mistakes. This then begs the question of what do we define as good and evil? The only way we can possibly get such an answer is if we were to be closer to Jesus. Why you ask? Wellbeing in the presence of God allows us to be shaped by Him, moulded by Him and purified.

Think about your family member/best friend/spouse/boss that you know well. Think about their likes and dislikes, the things that stir them up and get them excited. Think about the things that upset them and cause them to feel uneasy. You know this how? Because you've spent time with them. It's the same with God, the more time we spend with Him the more we are able to distinguish what is right and wrong.

God, help me to grow a love for being with You that I may know the things that are evil and good.

## DAY 3 - FAMILY

### ***Romans 12:10***

*Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another. (NKJV).*

*Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. (NLT).*

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves (NIV).*

Brothers and sisters may not always get along with each other but the idea that they share something in common is important. It's the same thing with our Christian faith. When you come to church on a Sunday take a look around. See the different ages, backgrounds, genders, ages, ethnicity that make up London Riverside Church! What is the common thread between us all? Jesus. The person of Jesus forces us to have this shared belonging.

So, here's the challenge for us in relation to this: outdo your brother and sister when it comes to showing honour and going above and beyond.

Father, help me to see the ways in which I can show honour to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

## DAY 4 - ZEAL FOR YOU

### **Romans 12:11**

*Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. (NKJV).*

*Never be lazy but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. (NLT).*

Passion, zeal, excitement and intention towards serving God is what Paul is driving here.

The Belonging Co. wrote a song called Zeal, the first part of the song is:

If there's one thing I'm asking  
One thing I'm needing  
A moment that's passing  
Is not what I'm seeking

Like it's the air I'm breathing  
I want Your presence  
Feet on the Earth  
Heart full of Heaven

Chorus

Zeal for You completely consumes me  
I can't get enough, can't get enough of You  
Your fire burning right through me  
I can't get enough, can't get enough of You, You  
I can't get enough of You, You  
I can't get enough of You

The singers here are describing their passion towards God, there's a burning inside of them to be taken over by God, for Him to do what He needs to do in their lives. I can imagine this song has become a prayer as something that they would say as it's running through the life of their Church, in the sense that people are single minded in their pursuit of God.

Have you ever wondered what area of church you can get involved in? Head over to our website and join a team. ([londonriversidechurch.com/joinateam](http://londonriversidechurch.com/joinateam)).

God, help me find an area in which I can play my part, where I use the talents and the skills that You have put inside of me.

## DAY 5 - SANDWICH

### ***Romans 12:12***

*Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer. (NKJV).*

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (NIV).*

*Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble and keep on praying. (NLT).*

We have reason to be joyful and not happy. Joy comes from Jesus and happiness is dependent on our situation and circumstance. God being our hope is reason for us to rejoice. The hope that God's redemptive plan is at work in our lives and in the world is exciting news.

Tribulation is sandwiched between rejoicing and prayer. Paul is not aiming here to minimise what people are going through, however what he is saying is that the joy we are expecting to come in the future, whilst praying to the God that is all powerful, is a compelling and strong stance. It allows us to keep going when the chips are down.

Prayer is something that we are instructed to do. Corporate times of prayer is exciting because it means we get to storm the gates of hell and win!

Here's my challenge to you, look out for the next prayer meeting and come along!

God, help me walk this path that you have asked of me to the best of my ability.