Overcome Evil with Good

Brent Moody · Romans 12:9–21

INTRODUCTION

- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- So he concludes this concept with the idea that you don't overcome evil with evil.
- But then verses nine through 21 are really about the way that we do this.

1 Love Unhypocritically

Romans 12:9; 1 Corinthians 13

- And so the idea here, in a kind of a very literal sense, in the wording in the original language, is to love unhypocritically.
- You should not be one person one time and be a different person another time.
- For Paul, love is more about what people do than how they feel.
- So, bottom line, it's not about what I want, it's about what he wants.

2 Abhor What Is Evil, Hold Fast to What Is Good

Romans 12:9; James 2

- When something is good, call it good. When something is evil, say it's evil.
- And don't be biased by political affiliation or religious affiliation.
- Don't be showing special treatment to family or friends or people with status.
- That's speaking what is true, that's speaking what is right, no matter the consequences.

3 Principles All Christians Should Follow

Romans 12:10–13

- These are principles that all Christians should follow. This is the way you should live life.
- This is for everyone. So it's not a choice. This is set up like a command structure.
- But in distress, you persevere. In trials, you rejoice in hope, and you can do this together as a group.
- These are principles for me as an individual to follow myself.

4 Harmony Comes When People Live These Principles

Romans 12:14–16; Matthew 5:44

- And harmony comes when people live these principles.
- Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.
- But I'm so connected to my brethren, and I'm so devoted to them that when they rejoice, I rejoice. And when they weep, I weep.

- The things that Paul is saying here, particularly to the Gentiles, you're not haughty, you don't think higher of yourself than you ought to think.

5 Give Thought to Do What Is Honorable

Romans 12:17

- We live in a culture that kind of is reactive.
- Have I thought this through before I act or before I speak?
- Think beforehand about things that are honorable.

6 Overcome Evil with Good

Romans 12:19–21; Proverbs 25

- But what Paul is saying here is don't be trying to take vengeance into your own hands.
- The best way to get even is to show the kind of mercy that God has shown me.
- Paul says, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he's thirsty, give him a drink, because that's the right thing to do.
- We are to overcome evil with good and in so doing become like our Father who is in heaven.

THE CHALLENGE

So why not go all the way? Why not give our lives to Jesus Christ in fullness?

MY NOTES