

Overcome Evil with Good

Romans 12:21

Rom. 1:28-31 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Rom. 3:10-18 as it is written: 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.' 'Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.' 'The venom of asps is under their lips.' 'Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.' 'Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.' 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.'

Rom. 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Rom. 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

I. Do Not Be Overcome by Evil!

Rom. 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1 Pet. 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

A. What Is Evil?

Ps. 25:8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

Ps. 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Ps. 86:5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

Lam. 3:25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

Nahum 1:7 The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

Luke 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Evil is everything that stands against God, everything that contradicts His holiness, His standards, His truth, and His will.

The root of evil lies in the claim that we, rather than God, are the standard of good. We, not He, define what is good and what is bad, demanding that He submit to us.

Gen. 6:5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

B. How Do We Stand Against Evil?

1 John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

A person who has not been born again may, because of common grace, sometimes agree with God's definition of what is good. But even then, they still resist God by making themselves the ultimate standard that defines what is good.

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Rom. 12:17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

Rom. 12:9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Eph. 4:26-27 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

Rom. 12:19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.

The moment you allow evil, in any form, to fill your heart—you've already lost. Evil triumphed!

Up until that point, evil was near you, around you. But now it has entered into you. From there, it takes root as you begin to justify its presence in your heart. If this process isn't stopped, evil will eventually break out of you, spreading through your actions and affecting others.

If you cannot overcome evil in your own heart, you will never overcome it in the world around you.

II. Overcome Evil with Good!

Rom. 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**.

What is good?

- Good is God in His essence. He is the source and standard of all goodness.
- Good is God's truth, God's perspective on the surrounding reality, God's judgments about what is good and what is bad.
- Good is God's salvation for humanity, carried out through the redemption accomplished by Christ.
- Good is God's Gospel, proclaiming and accomplishing this salvation in each individual person.
- Good is a God-defined attitude towards people and the circumstances around us.

A. Believe in true Goodness

Heb. 10:38 But my **righteous one shall live by faith**, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.

2 Cor. 10:4-5 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**.

Your ability to fight against evil and conquer it is determined by the level of your knowledge of God and your conviction in God's goodness.

Eph. 6:10-12 Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might**. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Eph. 6:14-17 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

B. Live out True Goodness

1 Pet. 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Pet. 2:11-12 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may **see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Philippians 2:5. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:6-8. Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

C. Spread True Goodness Around.

Acts 1:8. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be **my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

John 17:14-18. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world

- Commit yourself today to true goodness!
- Commit yourself to living out the goodness that is revealed to us in God!
- Commit yourself to proclaiming this goodness!