

# SERMON NOTES:

VOL 4: Part 27: Overcome Evil with Good

**BIG Idea:** Christ calls us not to curse, withdraw, or seek revenge, but to bless our enemies, trust God with justice, and overcome evil with good.

**Application:** When hostility rises against us, our response must reflect Christ: blessing instead of cursing, love instead of vengeance, and faith instead of fear.

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**Vengeance escalates evil, silence enables evil, but blessing overcomes evil.**

**Romans 12:14-21 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> 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."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **I. Living Counter-Culturally in Relationships (vv. 14-16)**

1. Jesus calls us to bless, don't curse (v.14)

**Matthew 5:44 (NIV)** <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

**Philippians 1:29 (NLT)**

<sup>29</sup> For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.

**2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**Luke 21:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> "But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into

synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers.”

**John 16:2 (NLT)**

<sup>2</sup> For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God.

2. Enter emphatically in the lives of others (v. 15)
3. Pursue humility and unity (v.16)

**John 13:35 (NLT)**

<sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

**The church's unity is its testimony in a divided world.**

## **II. Responding to Hostility with Integrity (vv. 17-21)**

1. Do not repay evil for evil (vv.17-18)

**Romans 12:17-18 (NIV)**

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

**Proverbs 17:13 (NLT)**

<sup>13</sup> If you repay good with evil,  
evil will never leave your house.

**1 Peter 2:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.

**1 Peter 2:15 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.

**1 Peter 3:16 (NLT)**

<sup>16</sup> But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

2. Leave vengeance to God (vv. 19-20)

**Romans 12:19-20 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> 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."

**Proverbs 20:22 (NLT)**

<sup>22</sup> Don't say, "I will get even for this wrong."  
Wait for the Lord to handle the matter.



**Acts 7:60 (NLT)**

<sup>60</sup> He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

3. Overcome evil with good (v.21)

**Romans 12:21 (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**1 Corinthians 4:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living. We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us.

**Doing good to our enemies isn't weakness-it's warfare of a higher kind.**

**Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

### III. Why This Response is Essential

- Because it is **the way of Christ**. (Luke 23:34)
- Because it is **the way of the cross**. (Phil. 1:29; 2 Tim. 3:12)
- Because it is the **way of the gospel**.