

ROMANS 12:21

OVERCOME

Big Idea: Because Christ has overcome evil, believers must refuse to be conquered by evil and instead overcome evil with Christlike good.

REFUSE TO BE OVERCOME BY EVIL

- What does Paul mean when he commands believers not to be “overcome by evil?” How can we guard our hearts so that another person’s sin against us does not begin to control how we think, feel, or respond? (e.g. Proverbs 4:23; Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32; Hebrews 12:15)
- Why are retaliation, bitterness, anger, and resentment actually victories for evil rather than victories over evil? (e.g. Proverbs 14:29; James 1:19-20)
- How did Jesus demonstrate that suffering evil does not require us to become like those committing evil against us? (e.g. Isaiah 53:7; 1 Peter 2:22-23)

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

- Romans 12:21 is not ultimately a call to try harder or to be nicer to people who hurt us. It is a call to live out the pattern of the Gospel. How did Christ overcome evil through His incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection, and how does His victory enable us to overcome evil with good? (e.g. Philippians 2:7-8; Colossians 1:19-22)
- Overcoming evil with good does not mean minimizing evil. It means refusing to let evil determine our response to evil. What does it practically look like to overcome evil with good? (e.g. Luke 6:27-36)
- How does the cross become both the foundation and the model for the way Christians respond to evil? (e.g. Ephesians 2:13-16; 1 Peter 3:18)
- Why does overcoming evil with good require supernatural dependence upon the Holy Spirit rather than merely greater self-control or determination? (e.g. Galatians 5:16-23)
- How does responding to evil with good provide an opportunity for the watching world, even our enemies, to see the character of Christ through us? (e.g. Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:9-12)