

## **Learning to Overcome Evil**

### **Study Questions**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening or troubling? Explain.
2. What are some examples of evil that you have experienced in your life and observed in our culture? How do most people that do not know Jesus respond to these?
3. In your own words why would it be difficult to be kind toward those that persecute you? What would be your natural response?
4. When you think about our responses to overcoming evil was are some disadvantages of responding our way and advantages to responding in a Godly way?
5. We are called to rejoice and mourn with others, even our enemies. Which do you find more difficult and why?
6. Read Proverbs 24:17-18. Why do you think that Lord responds the way that He does when we rejoice in the fall of our enemy?
7. Romans 12:16 calls us to live in harmony with others. How do the statements at the end of the verse on how we view others influence our ability to live harmoniously with others?
8. Romans 12:17 calls us to not take revenge. Why is it necessary that we consider the right moral action to take as opposed to responding with our emotions?
9. Romans 12:18 reminds us that we are only responsible to do our best in working out issues. How does this admonition encourage us in being peacemakers?
10. What might be some reasons why God's way of treating our enemies in Romans 12:20 would be more effective in getting through that our normal human responses?

#### **Digging Deeper**

11. Pick one relationship to being applying these truths to in your life this week.

## **Learning to Overcome Evil**

### **Series: Transformed**

*Sunday February 21, 2016*

*"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."  
Romans 12:21 ESV*

#### **Respond with Kindness**

*"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them."  
Romans 12:14 ESV*

*"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,"  
Matthew 5:44 ESV*

#### **Two Benefits:**

##### **1. Reveals Jesus to Others**

*"so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."  
Matthew 5:45a ESV*

##### **2. Defuses the Situation**

*"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."  
Proverbs 15:1 ESV*

#### **Have Empathy for Others**

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."  
Romans 12:15 ESV*

*"Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him."  
Proverbs 24:17-18 ESV*

### **Be a Peacemaker**

*“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.” Romans 12:16 ESV*

### **Be Honorable**

*“Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.” Romans 12:17 ESV*

*“A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.” Proverbs 18:19 ESV*

### **Do Your Best**

*“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” Romans 12:18 ESV*

### **Give it to Jesus**

*“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.”” Romans 12:19 ESV*

### **My Godly Response Brings Conviction**

*“To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”” Romans 12:20 ESV*

*“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21 ESV*