



Conquer Evil With Good

“Love one another deeply”

Romans 12:21

Introduction

Today we will continue our walk through **Romans 12**.

Context— Romans 1-11 the apostle Paul teaches the fundamental, doctrines of the faith.

Starting with **Romans 12** the apostle Paul transitions his instruction from focusing on Biblical doctrine to the application of Biblical doctrine in our life.

In **Romans 12** Paul gives followers of Christ:

A Challenge:

Romans 12:1-2 “ . . . I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” CSB

A Call:

Romans 12:3-8 continues with a Call for Christians everywhere(those who are Christ like) to live with humility and serve God and others with Spiritual Gifts.

A Command:

Romans 12:21 ends with this Command:

Scripture

“Do not be conquered by evil, but **conquer evil with good.**” CSB

Quote of the day

“Many have puzzled themselves about the origin of evil. I am content to observe that there is evil, and that there is a way to escape from it” — John Newton

The reality of life is this: Life isn't always fair, life has opportunities, life has choices, life has consequences.

Life is a raging battle between Good and evil, right and wrong, light vs. darkness, life and death.

In this passage of Scripture Paul is drawing a line in the sand:

Don't be conquered by evil

The word translated “**Conquer**” comes from the Greek word “**Nikao**” a verb meaning the present action of being overcome and controlled by the enemy. “**Nikao**” is a military term describing victory or superiority over the enemy.

The word translated “**evil**” comes from the Greek word “**Kakos**” meaning behavior that is spiritually immoral, corrupt, wicked and harmful. Behavior that rejects biblical authority and opposes truth and God's Will.

A good translation would be— Do not let evil win, do not let evil overcome you, have superiority over you and or rule you.

Being conquered by evil is easy and requires no discipline, no sacrifice, no morals, no commitment. The demonic schemes of satan appeal to the desires of our flesh. Being conquered by evil seems easy at the time but the consequences of evil are devastating.

Proverbs 6:12-15 “A worthless person, a wicked man goes around speaking dishonestly, 13 winking his eyes, signaling with his feet, and gesturing with his fingers. 14 He always plots evil with perversity in his heart; he stirs up trouble. 15 Therefore calamity will strike him suddenly; he will be shattered instantly, beyond recovery.” CSB

James 1:14-15 “But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. 15 Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.”

While sin may appeal to our senses and seem pleasant at the time— Do not be fooled. The consequences of evil are coming like an out of control freight train bearing the wrath of God in this life and eternity to come.

When the consequences of sin in this life are finished with us we are broken, spiritually bankrupt, devastated and discarded on the heap of discarded souls without peace, comfort or any shred of hope.

King Solomon put it this way, **Ecclesiastes 12:1** “So remember your Creator in the days of your youth: Before the days of adversity come, and the years approach when you will say, “I have no delight in them”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 “When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil.” CSB

In this life we have a choice to make— Choose your hard

Matt Hogan in his article titled “Choose your hard” wrote “We’re wired to follow the path of least resistance. But, choosing to do what’s easy now doesn’t last. In fact, in almost every case, it only makes life harder later. Experiencing the “hard” in life is not a matter of if, but a matter of when. And take heed, hard now and hard later are not created equal. Delayed gratification is the process by which an individual resists an immediate reward in preference for a greater future reward. Matt goes on to say:

Marriage is hard— Divorce is hard. Choose your hard.
Obesity is hard— Being fit is hard. Choose your hard.
Being in debt is hard— Financial discipline is hard. Choose your hard.
Communication is hard. The effects of not communicating is hard. Choose your hard.
Life will never be easy. It will always be hard. But we can choose our hard.
Pick wisely. We should learn to prepare for the hard, stop expecting the easy, and CHOOSE to confront the hard, today, for an exponentially greater and fulfilling tomorrow. Citation: Matt Hogan “Choose Your Hard” [Move Me quotes and more.](#)

Noah chose his hard— It took decades of hard work for Noah to build the Ark. His blessing, He, his wife, three sons and their lives were spared from the devastation and death caused by the great flood.

The Rich Young Ruler in the New Testament chose his hard— He lived his life with all the pleasure his money could buy. However, he rejected Jesus and is now enduring his hard in hell.

Joshua the leader who followed Moses said to the Israelites: In essence he said “choose your hard”

Joshua 24:14-15 “ . . . fear the LORD and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the LORD. 15 But if it doesn’t please you to worship the LORD, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship —the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.” CSB

In this passage of Scripture Paul is drawing a line in the sand:

Don’t be conquered by evil **Conquer evil with good**

The Word of God is calling us to reject the fleeting pleasures of sin, follow Christ and serve Him.

There is no remedy to ease the wrath of God concerning our sin unless we conquer evil with good.

Jesus conquered evil on the cross when He died for our sins. Everyone who has been reconciled to God by grace through faith in Jesus will conquer evil with the same “good.”

The word translated “**good**” is the Greek word “**Agathos**” meaning virtue, excellent character, biblical morality, humility and obedience to God’s Word and God’s Will.

A good translation of “Conquering evil with good” would be—Instead of allowing evil to get the upper hand and bring defeat, win the victory against evil by doing what is right. Our most powerful weapon against evil is good. To respond to evil with evil is not to overcome it but to add to it. Believers are called to live victoriously in a hostile world by continuing to live as Jesus lived. Right will prevail against wrong. God is on his throne, and though all is not right in this world we live in, God is the one who will avenge the wicked and reward the righteous. [Citation: Robert H. Mounce, Romans, vol. 27, The New American Commentary \(Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995\), 241–42.](#)

God’s Word commands us to conquer sin and evil with good.

In **Romans 12:9-20** the Apostle Paul reveals a strategic battle plan that will lead us to conquer evil with good.

Conquering Evil With Good: Step One

Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters vv.9-10

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. 10 **Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters.** Take the lead in honoring one another.” CSB

The phrase “**Love one another deeply**” is a significant phrase in these two verses.

The phrase translated “**love one another deeply**” comes from the Greek word “**Philostorgos**” meaning true love, affection and devotion as it relates to the love we have for our family.

Love is the foundation of Biblical doctrine and theology.

John 3:16 “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” CSB

Romans 5:8 “But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” CSB

I John 3:16 “This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” CSB

Loving one another deeply as brothers and sisters means love is:

Authentic

Holy

Steadfast

Intentional

Loving one another deeply as brothers and sisters means love is:

Authentic v.9a

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good.
10 Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.” CSB

The phrase translated “**without hypocrisy**” comes from the Greek word “**Anypokritos**” meaning free from pretense, free from acting or playing the part.

Authentic love for others should never be disguised as a scheme to accomplish ulterior motives or attain personal ambitions.

I Timothy 1:5 “Now the goal of our instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith.” CSB

In a world crowded with people performing and pretending to be someone that is approved and appreciated— Be authentic!

It never works out when we pretend to be something we are not.

There is a Greek word describes what it means to be authentic.

What does being authentic really look like?

Philippians 1:9-11 says “And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are superior and **may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ**, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.” CSB

The word translated “**pure**” comes from the Greek word “**Eilikrines**” meaning not mixed with any other substance, to judge in the light of the sun.

There have always been scammers in the world out to make a quick dollar. In 1st century Rome scammers would take marble that was pitted, cracked and less valuable, rub wax on the marble and make it look pure— not mixed with any other substance. However, when the customer would get the marble home, the heat of the sun would cause the wax to melt exposing the pits and cracks.

We are commanded to live a pure life, not mixed with sin able to withstand the judgment of the SON.

Loving others deeply means love is:

Holy v.9b

“Let love be without hypocrisy. **Detest evil**; cling to what is good. 10 Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another.” CSB

The phrase translated “**Detest evil**” comes from the Greek words:

Detest— “**Apostygeo**” meaning to be repulsed by sin, to hate evil and its consequences.

Evil— “**Poneros**” meaning works of the devil, false, wrong, offensive, deceptive and morally reprehensible.

Holiness is one of the essential elements of God's nature that He requires of His people. Holiness also referred to as “godliness” which means being set apart for Divine service.

1 Peter 1:13-16 “Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 **But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."** NIV

Holiness matters!

In 2004 there was quite a mix-up at the Duke University Hospitals in Raleigh and Durham, North Carolina. Maintenance workers had drained hydraulic fluid from the hospital elevators into empty detergent drums and then didn't get rid of the drums. Through a strange series of events, the drums were mistakenly redistributed to the people who clean surgical instruments. It took two months and 3,800 surgeries before anyone figured out something was wrong. Washing the instruments in hydraulic fluid was not an effective means of sterilization. The biggest question was, what kind of damage had been done to the patients? No one was sure what the

petroleum residue might do to people. The hospital administrator assured the public, "We want to give people the message that we care about our patients," and no doubt they do. But if their instruments weren't safe, they were a threat to their patients no matter how much they cared. [Citation Associated Press \(6-13-05\)](#).

When holiness is not a priority in the life of Christians we are a danger to others just like a hospital that does not prioritize sanitized surgical instruments!

We are commanded to live and teach holiness as a way of life, lest we make worthless the "Good News" of God.

I saw a billboard several years ago that I still remember to this day: "A mirror showed a face disfigured by marks that reflected every hurtful word, broken promise, and selfish choice.

"What if every sin left a mark on your face?"

What would it look like and what would we do if every sin left a disfiguring mark on our face? Would the consequences of our sin cause us to detest evil?

"Every temptation that comes to me is evil packaged as something good." — Eugene Peterson

We love others deeply by living holy lives that detest evil that in turn reflects His character in our lives.

Loving others deeply means love is:

Steadfast v.9c

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. 10 Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another." CSB

The phrase translated “**cling to what is good**” comes from the Greek words:

Cling— “**Kollao**” meaning to remain persistently faithful, steadfast, to join or associate with, to enter into a close relationship. To be attached to what is good.

Good— “**Agathos**” meaning positive moral qualities.

We love others deeply when we remain steadfast in our relationship to God by seeking to honor Him, obey His Word and accomplish His will.

I Thessalonians 5:19-22 “Don’t stifle the Spirit. 20 Don’t despise prophecies, 21 but test all things. Hold on to what is good. 22 Stay away from every kind of evil.” CSB

Loving others deeply means love is:

Intentional v.10

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. 10 Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. **Take the lead in honoring one another.**” CSB

The phrase translated “Take the lead in honoring”

Take the lead— “**Proegeomai**”— This word is found in the New Testament only once— it means to be a leader, to be eager, to go first, to take delight in.

Honoring— “**Time**” pronounced “**Teem ay**”— meaning to show the worth, to show the value, to show the dignity ascribed to a person.

We love others deeply when we are the first, when we are eager, when we take delight in showing honor and respect to others.

Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. 4 Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others.

We Conquer Evil With Good when we Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters.

Richard S. Halverson, the former U.S. Senate Chaplain, used to challenge people with the following image:

We are going to meet an old man person someday down the road—ten, thirty, fifty years from now—waiting there for you. You'll be catching up with this person— this person is you. What kind of person are you going to meet? Will you meet a seasoned, pleasant person —a person who has grown old gracefully, surrounded by hosts of friends, friends who call you blessed because of what your life has meant to others. Or will you be a bitter, disillusioned, dried-up old geezer without a good word for anyone—soured, friendless, and alone.

The decisions we make everyday create the person we will become. Every passing day we are looking more like ourselves, how we think, how we talk, how we relate to others, how we honor or do not honor God with our lives. If we live only in terms of what we are getting out of life and the old man gets smaller, more bitter, more self-centered and more hopeless. When we dedicate our lives to honor God, love others and think in terms of what we can give, our contribution to life, and the old person grows larger, softer, kinder, and more influential. [Citation: Daniel Henderson, The Deeper Life \(Bethany House Publishers, 2014\), pp 165-166](#)