



Conquer Evil With Good

"Serve the Lord"

Romans 12:21

Introduction

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 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

“I never looked at the masses as my responsibility. I can only love one person at a time. So I began. I picked up one person. Maybe if I didn't pick up that one person, I wouldn't have picked up forty-two thousand.”— Mother Teresa

“If serving is beneath you, then leadership is beyond you.”
— Unknown

Many have taken credit for this quote, however, it is not known who stated it. The anonymous nature of this quote demonstrates the message matters more than the messenger.

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

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

Don't be conquered by evil

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 take hold of you, do not let evil conquer you, have superiority over you or rule you.

What does evil look like?

Galatians 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, 21 envy,, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” CSB

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.

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 Conquer evil— Do not be controlled by the desires of our flesh, reject the fleeting pleasures life that cause us to sin, follow Christ and serve Him.

A good translation of “Conquering evil with good” would be—Instead of allowing evil to get the upper hand, conquer and defeat us, win the battle against evil “with good”. Our most powerful weapon against evil is good—good that comes from God.

In **Romans 12:9-20** the Apostle Paul reveals a strategic 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

Conquering Evil With Good: Step Two

Serve the Lord vv.11-15

“Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; **serve the Lord.** 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. 13 Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality. 14 Bless those who

persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.” CSB

We conquer evil with good when we “**Serve the Lord.**”

The phrase translated “**serve the Lord**” comes from the Greek words: The word translated “**serve**” is the Greek word “**douleuo**” a verb describing the activity of serving in obedience to the Lord.

The word translated “**Lord**” is the Greek word “**Kurios**” which is the title for God and Jesus. “**Kurios**” is the New Testament expression of Yahweh in the Old Testament. Yahweh being the supreme being, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

In **Romans 12:11-15** the Apostle Paul gives us clear instructions for serving the Lord:

Instructions for serving the Lord:

Serve the Lord with Passion

Serve the Lord with a Gracious Spirit

Serve the Lord with Awareness of Others

Instructions for Serving the Lord:

Serve the Lord with Passion v.11

“Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; **serve the Lord.**”

The phrase translated “**do not lack diligence in zeal**” comes from the Greek word “**Spoude**” meaning to act with swiftness, without delay.

Don’t procrastinate, do not delay serving in obedience to the Lord.

The phrase translated “**be fervent in the Spirit**” comes from the the Greek words:

“Fervent” comes from the Greek word **“Zeo”** meaning to be enthusiastic, to be excited, to have passion in the Spirit.

Every person has a place in the cause of advancing God’s kingdom on the earth.

When we find our place, when we find out what we have been gifted and called to do, the Holy Spirit of God will give us strength, wisdom, discernment and opportunities to serve Him. Serve the Lord with eagerness and excitement.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 “Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.” CSB

Martin Luther was approached by a working man who wanted to know how he could serve God. Luther asked him, "What is your work now?" The man said, "I'm a shoemaker."

Much to the cobbler's surprise, Luther replied, "Then make good shoes and sell them at a fair price."

Luther didn't tell the man to make "Christian shoes." He didn't tell the man to leave his shoe business and become a monk.

As Christians, we can faithfully serve God in a variety of vocations and jobs. And we don't need to justify that work in terms of its "spiritual" value or evangelistic usefulness. We simply pursue our calling with new God-glorifying motives, goals, and standards. Citation: [Serving the Lord in your work Christianity Today, sermon illustrations.](#)

There are countless ways to serve the Lord, discover what God built you for and with passion and eagerness serve Him.

Serve the Lord with Passion

Instructions for serving the Lord:

Serve the Lord with a Gracious Spirit vv.12-13

Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. 13 Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

In verses 12-13 the apostle Paul describes what it looks like to serve with a Gracious Spirit.

A gracious spirit means to live with a spirit of humility, gratitude and obedience to the Lord.

The phrase “**gracious spirit**” is not found in this text however, vv.12-13 describe what it looks like to live with a gracious spirit.

A gracious spirit:

Rejoices in Hope

The phrase translated “**Rejoices in hope**” comes from the Greek words:

The word translated “**Rejoices**” comes from the Greek word “**Chairo**” meaning to be in a state of happiness, to rejoice, to be glad.

Joy is a positive human emotion that is both a feeling and an expression.

What is an expression of Joy? Smiling, friendliness, joy etc.

The word translated “**hope**” comes from the Greek word “**Elpis**” meaning to live with expectation.

Every follower of Christ should live “rejoicing in hope” because through Jesus we have the promise of heaven.

Hebrews 12:22-24 “ . . . you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels, a festive gathering, 23 to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been

written in heaven, to a Judge, who is God of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, . . .” CSB

I Peter 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” CSB

Sometimes I become so overjoyed with hope I can’t contain myself and often times I break out in worship.

A gracious spirit:

Is Patient in Affliction

The words translated:

“**Patient**” comes from the Greek word “**Hupomeno**” meaning to maintain a steady course of action, to stand our ground, to stay in place, to hold out.

“**Affliction**” comes from the Greek word “**Thilpsis**” meaning distress, pain, suffering and hardship.

Living with a gracious spirit means to stand our ground, to hold on, even when we feel like giving up.

A gracious spirit:

Is Persistent in Prayer

The word translated “**persistent**” comes from the Greek word “**Proskartereo**” meaning to be consistent, faithful and continual.

Ephesians 6:18 “Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.” CSB

I Thessalonians 5:17 “pray constantly” CSB

We are called to live in a spirit of prayer.

A gracious spirit:

Shares with the Saints

The word translated “**share**” comes from the Greek word “**Koinoneo**” meaning to share, to give to others as they have need.

Those who live with a gracious spirit will share with others in their time of need.

A gracious spirit:

Pursues Hospitality

The phrase translated “**pursue hospitality**” comes from the Greek words:

Pursue “Dioko” meaning to move quickly and decisively toward something. To pursue as if trying to catch something.

Hospitality “**Philoxenia**” to show kindness, favor and brotherly love to strangers.

Cool to be Kind cards Ephesians 6:32

Instructions for Serving the Lord:

Serve the Lord with Awareness of Others vv.14-15

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.” CSB

Bless those who mistreat us!

Rejoice with those who are rejoicing

Weep with those who are weeping.