

Overcome Evil with GOOD

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

If you were to ask anyone on the streets of Chicago during the heat of the mafia movement during the 1920's, "How to overcome evil?" The response you would receive would probably be along the lines of "You must be evil back!" That's the natural response, right? When someone hits you... You hit them back harder. When someone does you wrong, you do everything possible to "get even with them." But what does the Bible teach? What is the way of Christ? That's the question we as Christians must ask when faced with evil...

Since we live in an evil world, we need to know how to overcome evil, because evil seems to be lurking at every corner... The Lord knows this and that is why He tells us through His Word in the book of Romans the key to overcoming evil. And this key is with good! Yes, that's right... Retaliation isn't the answer... Stooping down to the level of revenge isn't the way to take down evil. Rather, it's by doing good and exposing the darkness of the situation with the light of the Gospel!

You see, Jesus Himself lived out Romans 12:21... He overcame evil with good! He overcame the evil powers of this world by giving up Himself in love as the greatest good that this world has ever known. Yes, instead of calling down an army of angels to come whipping and riding onto the streets of Jerusalem to slay the wicked, Jesus did good. Jesus chose kindness, gentleness, and compassion. Jesus kept His eyes on the Father's will and chose obedience, reverence, and redemption. He knew that in God's perfect timetable, vengeance would come upon His enemies (Romans 12:19). And so, Jesus overcame evil by doing good... He gave the good and all-sufficient sacrifice of Himself as the Lamb of God that was slain before the foundation of the world to conquer the evils of death and hell.

And so now as His followers what are we to do when we are faced with evil? How should we as Christians respond to the evil that is done to us? Well, if we are striving to be Christ-like in all that we do, we must with the help of the Holy Spirit learn to overcome evil with good. When we are treated poorly by others we should respond with a rich check of kindness like Jesus would. When everyone else is complaining and making the atmosphere toxic with melancholy, we should be positive and optimistic and see the good in the situation. When we are mocked, jeered at, and treated differently because we are believers we should seek to "kill the evil with kindness!"

Next time evil comes knocking on your door answer it with goodness in your heart. Is this easy to do? Absolutely not! There will be times that you won't want to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39). But the way of Christ is about doing good even in the face of evil (Acts 10:38). For this is the true and lasting way of overcoming the evil of this world. And so do good my friend, even to your evil enemies...

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis