



# WE SHALL OVERCOME

Romans 12:14-21

# OVERCOMING

## Romans 12:14-21

Take note of the context:

Condemnation, Justification,  
Sanctification, Glorification!

Now “offer your body to God!”

- by “overcoming evil with good”



# LOVE IS THE CENTER

Romans 12:9

Love for God; Love for Christ;  
Love for Others is the Reason for  
“overcoming evil with good.”

# ROMANS 12:21

“overcome” – a military term

Overcomers are winners. If you are a Christian, you are a winner because Christ has overcome.

**Revelation 3:21 (+ “in Christ” 13x)**



# OVERCOME EVIL

Paul uses military terms because we are not to be on the defensive against evil, but on the offensive: doing good. **Romans 12:14-20** is the good we are to be doing to overcome the evil.

# “EVIL”

Not a broad, generic evil which is in the world, but a specific evil directed toward **you**; you must endure what is inflicted by some other person.

Context is mainly an unbeliever; perhaps a “frienemy.”

# “EVIL”

The essence of this evil is **most of all that it is aimed at God!** Satan wants to thwart God's purpose by tempting Christians to sin, disgracing God's Name and weakening the Church.

# “EVIL”

Through no fault of your own, evil is directed against you because you are living a life that contrasts with sin. This is not the same as punishment on a sinning Christian.

**1 Peter 4:15-16**



“GOOD”

This is not passive, but active.

The cross of Christ was not passive,  
but the most active good that  
overcame the most horrible evil.

**Hebrews 2:14; Colossians 2:15; John 10:18**

# “BLESS AND CURSE”

Why this command first?

**James 3:1-12; Ephesians 4:25-32**

Primary place of communication!

This is not passive; it is active.

How does love talk?

*“Pray for those who mistreat you”* **Lk. 6**

# ROMANS 12:14

The communication response to evil comes first. Useless to try anything else first. All the good intentions and efforts in the world can be undone by one careless word. The Christian **must** learn how to talk to those who wrong him.

# ON THE OFFENSIVE

“Blessing” is a positive, active, aggressive response; not a passive one.

**Matthew 5:38-48**, “*turn the other cheek*” is not passive, but actively doing good; giving persecutor opportunity to repent; demanding better of him; refusing his sinful behavior by thrusting forth something good; showing concern for him and his sinful condition.

# LOVE TALKS – ROMANS 12:14

“Persecute” – various sorts – not “if”  
but “when” - implied by Paul  
Most frequent – verbal/social  
Not easy to control the mouth  
Love will teach you how to  
manage your mouth!

# MATTHEW 10:16-20

Be suave and careful, not deceitful or deceptive; but persecution will come.

If you have not suffered: 1) You are not a Christian, 2) You are not living like a Christian should live, or 3) Your time to suffer has not yet come.

# “PERSECUTE YOU”

Who is persecuting you? Who is cursing you: slander, insults, mockery, gossip, unkindness, verbal abuse?

Media, unbelieving world, neighbor, “friend,” family member, in-law, spouse, child, boss, co-worker?

# BLESS YOU!

How can you handle it? How did you respond? Did you bless? Did you curse? What were your words? Your ***thoughts*** – (words spoken to yourself)?

Recall your specific words/thoughts.

# HIGHLY INEFFECTIVE HABITS

As sinners who have developed sinful response patterns, we have developed a sinful style of responding to those who talk to us in ways we do not like. Change is hard....but not impossible. (Romans 12:2 “transform”)

# MANAGE YOUR MOUTH

**Cursing is Serious Business**: When you curse, you invoke God's judgment on another; you are asking God to send the person you curse to hell forever; you are so angry that you'd like him to suffer the torments and punishment of eternal wrath. That's your attitude at the moment.

# “BLESS AND CURSE”

Don't take cursing lightly; God may listen! Is that what you **really** want God to do – damn him to hell forever? Cursing is serious business.

Help for the Moment – Take time to think about hell and what suffering is really like.

# JAMES 3:1-12

“Blessing and cursing from the same mouth – this should not be!” **Doesn't make sense.**

*“fresh water/bitter water”*

*“fig tree/olives” “vine/figs”*

*“salt water produce fresh water?”*

# OUGHT NOT TO BE

A believer is the only one who understands the horrors of hell, and the freedom of Christ, and therefore should be the last to curse another. He understands that he himself would be under God's curse if Christ had not died to free him from bondage of hell.

# “CURSING”

May be publicly; May be privately;  
May be silently to one's self; but always  
spoken before God.

“I know I shouldn't as a Christian, but  
how do I stop?”

# PUT OFF/PUT ON

Essence of all life change!

Twofold call to discipleship.

You can't stop cursing; impossible.

You must **replace** cursing with blessing!

Sinful ways don't just disappear, they must be shoved out by righteous ways!

# PUT OFF/PUT ON

It is not enough to stop cursing; you must start blessing! And you can because you are “in Christ” and have “died to sin.”

**Ephesians 4:22-24, 29-32;**

**Colossians 3:8, 10, 12, 14**

# PUT OFF/PUT ON

Holy Spirit brings change at depth level!  
Wont be easy; in regular doing, renewal takes place: constant awareness of God's demand for blessing, consistent desire to please God, continued effort to bless, not curse. ***New ways will become dominant!***

# WHAT IS A BLESSING?

More than opposite of a curse.

Asking God to do good to persecutor.

Ask God to save him; work good in his life.

Ask God to show him mercy despite of...

Pray for one who spitefully uses you.

Ask God to do good to one who does evil.