



Pastor Scott Archer 07.22.2018*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Overcome Evil with Good

Romans 12:9-22

Series: Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God
(Summer Reading Series)

Central Passage

Romans 12:14–21 (ESV) — **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** 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.” **20** 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.” **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Central Thought: If Jesus is what God has to say, then vengeance and violence – whether physical or verbal – are no longer options for the sincere follower of Christ.

Context

- ❖ To follow the way of Jesus, we must be transformed into a new way of thinking and acting.

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV) — **1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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Regarding those who oppose us...

- ❖ Return blessing for cursing! (vs. 14)

Matthew 5:11–12 (ESV) — **11** “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- ❖ Do what is right, even when wronged! (vs. 17)

1 Corinthians 6:7 (ESV) — **7** To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?

- ❖ Always seek peace! (vs. 18)

Matthew 5:9 (ESV) — **9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- ❖ Never retaliate! (vs. 19)

Matthew 5:38–39 (ESV) — **38** “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39** But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

- ❖ Serve your enemy! (vs. 20)

Matthew 5:43–45 (ESV) — **43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (See also Mat. 5:38-48)

Conclusion

- ❖ Overcome Evil with Good! (vs. 21)

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