WEEK FOUR: OVERCOMING WITH GOOD

Romans 12:14–21

Romans 12:14 write the verse

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"BLESS THEM WHICH PERSECUTE YOU..."

Bless – to invoke blessings by spoken word and concrete acts (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Topical Lexicon, Electronic database. n.d.)

Persecute – in any way whatever to harass, trouble, molest one (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic database. n.d.)

To bless those who persecute us is to exercise self-control, the kind of self-control that only comes from the fruit of the Spirit. This does not mean we excuse wrongdoing or call evil good, but rather that we refuse to let the actions of others consume us. We choose to speak well of and desire the spiritual good of those who would persecute us, operating out of Christ's strength rather than our own flawed emotions.

IN MATTHEW 18:21-35, HOW DOES JESUS INSTRUCT US TO TREAT OTHERS?

"BLESS, AND CURSE NOT."

Curse – doom, imprecate evil upon. (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic database. n.d.)

It is incredibly easy to say we forgive someone while secretly wishing for their downfall. It means that even in our private thoughts, our prayers, and our conversations with others, we refuse to use our words as weapons of retaliation.

> But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; Matthew 5:44

James 3:9-10 Read and summarize below

Romans 12:15 write the verse

"...REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE, AND WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP."

Weep – mourn, sign of grief or pain (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic database. n.d.)

It takes a humble heart to celebrate someone else's blessings, especially when your life feels hard. When we are living conformed to the world, comparison tells us that someone else's success makes us a failure. If a brother or sister gets the

promotion, the healing, or the blessing that we have been praying for it can be difficult to celebrate. Learning to rejoice in those moments means getting beyond ourselves and treating their joy as if it were your own.

Paul then goes to weeping. Are we willing to climb into the trenches with those who are hurting? Offering meaningless phrases, quick fixes, or judgment is not weeping with them. We should come alongside them to help carry the weight of their grief or pain. This is how the body of Christ functions as one. When one part of your physical body is in pain, we all slow down to heal.

> Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.
> Galatians 6:2

Romans 12:16 write the verse

"BE OF THE SAME MIND ONE TOWARD ANOTHER."

This is a call for harmony within the body. It does not mean we will agree on everything, but it means we share the same purpose, mindset, and love. It means choosing to look past petty differences and personal preferences because our identity in Christ is bigger than anything that could divide us.

“MIND NOT HIGH THINGS,”

The child of God should not spend their life chasing titles, positions, or worldly gains. The world is obsessed with climbing ladders, being part of the "right" crowds, and building platforms. Paul warns us to keep our eyes off the high things of this world. When you are consumed with status, you quickly become proud, arrogant, and lose sight of our true purpose, glorifying God and serving Him.

“BUT CONDESCEND TO MEN OF LOW ESTATE.”

Condescend – submit one’s self to lowly things, conditions – not to evade their power (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic database. n.d.)

Our culture often looks down on people with less money, education, or social status. In God’s eyes, those are the very people we are called to embrace, serve, and walk alongside. Walking humbly means no job is beneath you and no person is below you.

“BE NOT WISE IN YOUR OWN CONCEITS.”

The moment we think we have it all figured out is the very moment we know nothing. Being wise in your own conceit means we think we are more than what we are. We start to fall back on our own intellect, opinions, and actions. We will then become prideful and close off our ears to godly counsel. A living sacrifice must maintain a teachable spirit, always remembering that true wisdom belongs to God alone.

Summarize the warnings below regarding being "wise in your own conceits":

Proverbs 3:7	Proverbs 26:12	Philippians 2:3

If we begin to think too highly of our own wisdom, we will quickly become conformed to the world's culture. We must remember that it is God who gives us the grace to remain humble and the compassion required to live in harmony with others.

Romans 12:17-18 write the verse

"RECOMPENSE TO NO MAN EVIL FOR EVIL."

Recompense – repay, reciprocate – giving back a mutual or equivalent exchange (Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic database. n.d.)

God teaches us that when we become His, we no longer have the right to settle the score. When someone does you dirty, the world says you have every right to get even. But scripture cuts right through that logic. It doesn't matter how badly you were

wronged, how unfair it was, or how much they deserve it—you are never permitted to pay back evil using evil ways.

There is a terrible lie that seems to have infiltrated the body of Christ, and it tells believers that we can fight the world's darkness using the world's weapons—anger, screaming, posturing, and hatred. This is completely against what scripture teaches.

What do the following verses teach us?

Psalm 94:1	
Hebrews 10:30	
1 Thessalonians 5:15	

If we use evil to fight evil, we simply double the amount of evil. We would simply become conformed to the very world we are called to change.

"PROVIDE THINGS HONEST IN THE SIGHT OF ALL MEN."

provide – foresee, to take thought beforehand, care for a thing (Bible Hub. 2026. "Greek Lexicon: pronoeo (Strong's 43060.")

To "provide things honest" we must have previously thought on them. This means we have to predetermine and settle in our hearts and minds to do what is right before a situation arises, or we will most definitely respond out of our feelings or fleshly reflexes when trials come.

How can you actively "think beforehand" this week to ensure your response reflects Jesus to those watching?

“IF IT BE POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS LIETH IN YOU, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN.”

You cannot control how other people treat you, but you are completely responsible for how you treat them. A lack of peace should never be our fault. We must do everything within our personal power such as apologizing, setting aside our pride, and letting go of offenses in order to live peaceably with others.

> Blessed [are] the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Matthew 5:9

Romans 12:19 write the verse

“DEARLY BELOVED, AVENGE NOT YOURSELVES, BUT RATHER GIVE PLACE UNTO WRATH:”

When we are hurt, everything inside us screams for justice, but taking vengeance into your own hands is an act of spiritual rebellion. It is putting ourselves onto God's throne and declaring that we are in control and that we know best. We must step out of the way and trust God's righteous judgment. Giving place to wrath means stepping back, taking our hands off of the situation, and trusting that God sees, God cares, and He will handle it perfectly in His time.

“FOR IT IS WRITTEN, VENGEANCE IS MINE; I WILL REPAY, SAITH THE LORD.”

We can pray, seek, and surrender our immediate reactions to what the Lord has for us in each moment of provocation, but it is not in our own strength to love our enemies outside of God's grace. Part of being a living sacrifice is deferring to God’s timing for justice and trusting His design for ultimate vindication.

God tells us that no sin will ever go unseen. Justice will be served at the cross of Jesus Christ or at the final judgment. While it is not easy, our job is to release it to God and trust Him with the outcome.

To me [belongeth] vengeance, and recompence; ... Deuteronomy 32:35

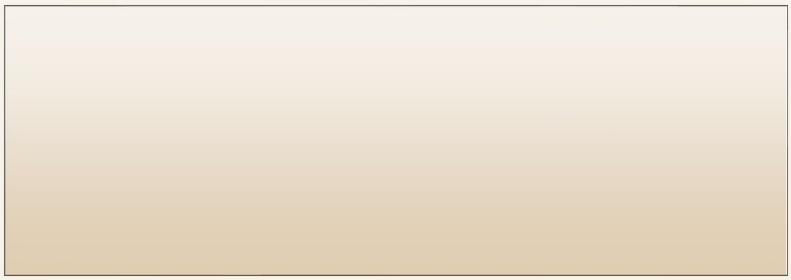
Romans 12:20-21 write the verse

“THEREFORE, IF THINE ENEMY HUNGER, FEED HIM; IF HE THIRST, GIVE HIM DRINK:”

It is not enough to just avoid our enemies or not act against them; Paul tells us to look after their basic needs. When we feed our enemy, we are treating them with the same unearned grace that God showed to us while we were still His enemy.

Summarize how Jesus says we are to treat our enemies:

Luke 6:27-36



"FOR IN SO DOING THOU SHALT HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD."

Compassion and mercy acts as a burning conviction upon the conscience of our enemies. When we respond to hatred with overwhelming kindness, it puts us back living peaceably as much as in our power.

"BE NOT OVERCOME OF EVIL,"

If you match your enemy's hatred with hatred, evil has officially won. The moment we let bitterness drive our actions; we have allowed the enemy to drag us down to his level. We might feel like we have won the argument or defended our honor, but spiritually, we have allowed the darkness to win, and we have gone back to conforming to this world.

"BUT OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD."

Being kind and compassionate does not make us weak or defenseless. Darkness cannot be defeated with more darkness; we only defeat darkness with light. We defeat cruelty with kindness, lies with truth, and hatred with love. This is exactly how Jesus conquered sin and death on the cross, and it is the only way we can live as transformed, living sacrifices.

OUR REASONABLE SERVICE

How does “overcoming with good” relate back to our reasonable service?

When we live conformed to the world, we use our relationships for personal gain, protect our pride regardless of the costs, retaliate when hurt, or we isolate ourselves from people we don’t prefer.

Living transformed means, we know that our capacity to love, forgive, and persevere comes entirely by the grace of God. We choose to react with mercy and grace to bring glory, honor, and praise to our Lord.

> Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:16