



Week 11- How to Overcome the Evil Aimed at You: Part 1

Introduction: How to treat your enemies

***43“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’
44But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?
47And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”***

Jesus, Matthew 5:43-48

Building Blocks of an R-12 Christian

1. The commands of Romans 12 are our _____ to Romans chapters 1-11 of God’s grace and mercy toward us.
2. R12 Christians focus on _____ not rules or religious activity.
3. R12 Christians highest aim is _____.
 - Loving God through a surrendered life.
 - Refusing to love the world’s false promises.
 - Loving ourselves for who God made us to be.
 - Loving fellow believers through sacrificial service.
 - Loving our enemies by supernaturally returning good for evil.

Supernaturally responding to evil:

Romans 12:14-21

¹⁴“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is Mine to avenge; I will repay” says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

A Romans 12 response to personal attack:

Positive Command = “_____ them that persecute you.”

Forgiveness – Romans 12:14

3 Phases of Forgiveness

1. **Forgive-** it is a _____ to forgive
2. **Forgiving-** it is a _____

Forgiving is choosing to give another person what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at great personal cost.

3. **Forgiven-** it is _____

□ Identification – Romans 12:15

• Association – Romans 12:16

Negative Command = “Don’t take your own _____.”

Personal retaliation is a prohibited response for God’s people -
Romans 12:17-18

Two compelling reasons why personal retaliation is prohibited –
Romans 12:19-20

1. It usurps God’s role as _____.
2. It is an ineffective means to bring about _____.

Supernatural result = _____ will overcome evil. Romans 12:21



Talk It Over:

Share a time when you had the opportunity to forgive someone who hurt you. How were you able to come to the place of forgiveness?

Read Matthew 18:21-35. At the end of the account, the man who refused to forgive was handed over to be tortured. How is refusing to forgive today like handing ourselves over to be tortured?

Romans 12 calls us to not be proud or conceited. Why is this relevant to a discussion on forgiving those who have hurt or offended us?



Live It Out- B.I.O.

B = COME “BEFORE GOD” DAILY

Meet with Him personally through prayer and His word to enjoy His presence, receive His direction, and follow His will.

I = DO LIFE “IN COMMUNITY” WEEKLY

Structure your week to personally connect in safe relationships that provide love, support, transparency, challenge, and accountability.

O = BE “ON MISSION” 24/7

Cultivate a mindset to live out Jesus’ love for others through acts of sacrifice as well as service at home, work, play, and church.

COME BEFORE GOD

Have someone read Colossians 3:13

What does it mean to “make allowance” for the faults of others?

How does remembering God’s forgiveness help us in our own journey with forgiveness??

DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Is there someone in your life that you are still working to forgive that your group can be praying for and for you in the process? Be as vague or specific as you wish.

BE ON MISSION

Read Matthew 5:43-48. How can forgiving and blessing those who have hurt us be a means of drawing people to Christ?



Thinking Locally...

How does today's study apply to Heartland's mission to: "Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples?"

How can this study speak into the concept of your "praying, investing and inviting" to help Heartland be all that it can be for the Kingdom of God and our community?
