

# Overcome Evil with Good

What if all this doesn't work?

Life Bridge Community Church

Week 8 of 8



## Final (Comprehensive) Review

**A Predictable Pattern:** Conflicts easily escalate from a spark to a raging fire, especially if we lob in grenades.

**Cravings / Idols:** Conflict can become deadly when we want something enough to sin to get it. *(See James 4)*

**The Slippery Slope:** Don't avoid or attack; rather remember the four G's

**The Gospel:** It changes everything!

**G#1: Go to Higher Ground** – Get vertical; ask yourself, “What would please and honor God in this situation?”

**G#2: Get Real About Yourself** – Start with yourself; accept responsibility for your part; root out your idols

**Make a good confession** (the 7 A's): Address, avoid, admit, acknowledge, accept, alter, ask

**G#3: Gently Engage Others** – Talk to them privately, and get help from the church as needed *(See Matt 18)*

**G#4: Get Together on Lasting Solutions** – Giving and receiving forgiveness; heart vs transactional forgiveness; four promises of forgiveness

**A wise question:** Can you just overlook this offense?

## Overcome Evil with Good

*See Romans 12:21 – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

It doesn't completely depend on you

*See Romans 12:18 – If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone*

Remember that faithfulness and obedience constitute success. Leave the outcome to God.

Will you be patient, trust God, and keep doing it *HIS* way, even when you don't see the results you want?  
*See 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 – We do not wage war as the world does...*

So, what do we do?

1) Pray

*See Matthew 5:44 – Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*

God changes the heart, not you.

**Your job:** To honor God by doing the right thing.

**God's job:** To change people.

2) Guard Your Heart

*See Romans 12:14 – Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

Heart forgiveness releases US. It's a disposition to love your enemy, even before you're reconciled.

3) Stay Close to Godly Counsel

*See Proverbs 13:20 – He who walks with the wise grows wise ...*

We must seek the advice we **need** to hear, not the advice we **want** to hear.

#### 4) Keep Doing What's Right

*See Romans 12:17 – Do not repay anyone evil for evil ... do what is right ...*

You will have opportunities to lash out and sin; don't succumb to this temptation.

#### 5) The Ultimate Weapon Against Injustice: Deliberate Focused Love

*See Romans 12:20-21 – Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good*

We don't fight fire with fire; we fight hate with love.

We don't just resist evil with good, we **overcome** it.

### Full Circle: It all comes back to the Gospel

How do we live like this?

The answer: We can't ... apart from God's work in us.

God grant me the strength to lay down my "rights" and love beyond hope or reason, to the amazement of a watching world.

### Perspectives

*... and I do not believe that the conflicts that rage all around us can't be solved by the cross.*

## Discussion Question(s)

1. What would it look like to obey Paul's command, "If at all possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all [people]." (Romans 12:18)?
2. On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 10 (in every circumstance), how would you rate your ability to trust God when it doesn't seem clear to you what He's doing? Why do you give yourself that rating?
3. Is there a person in your life to whom you need to show "deliberate focused love"? Consider sharing the circumstances surrounding that relationship and asking for prayer / accountability support.
4. Share with your table one thing you've learned during this study that, with God's help, you will be putting into practice in your everyday life. Share also *why* you believe implementing it will be successful.