

Sermon Notes

Overcoming Evil Part 4: Sincere Love

September 16th – 17th, 2023

- **Recap: Overcoming Evil with Good**
 - **Romans 12:21** is our main theme.
 - Overcome evil by not conforming worldly patterns, but by thinking right. **Rom 12:1-2**
 - Overcoming evil together: in humility, with unity, and taking responsibility. **Rpm 12:3-8**
 - Last week: Cheeks or Tables? **Rom 12:14, 12:17-21**
- **Overcoming Evil: Part 4**
- Let's focus on not conforming to the pattern of this world but being transformed in our study of Romans 12.
 - People don't need to be told about Jesus, they need to be shown...
- **Romans 12:9**
 - Three huge concepts in one verse.
 - 1) Love must be sincere – without hypocrisy in some translations.
 - What is the greatest commandment? **Mark 12:28-31**
 - That means, no faking it. Easier said than done? Take this as a promise!!
 - The world flatters, we love sincerely.
 - 2) Hate what is evil. Yes, hate what is evil.
 - Primary misinterpretation of this verse is to focus outwardly rather than inwardly.
 - The fundamental attribution error. **Matthew 7:1-5**
 - This isn't permission to hate a broken and sinful world. (Be aware, etc...)
 - Rather, this is a command to clean up your life. Get all the evil out.
 - The world looks for coping mechanisms, we grow and overcome.
 - 3) Cling to what is good! This is the “instead” of being full of evil.
 - A good example would be being transformed by the renewing of your mind!!
 - Fancy word for that is “sanctification.” Separating yourself unto God and learning to live out God's ways. Read the Bible and do what it says!
 - A good example of this is **1 Timothy 6:11-12**.
 - Flee from all the harmful and dark things, but take hold of these things!
 - “Cling to” and “take hold” mean we pursue and fight to attain these things!
 - The world is corrupted over time, we fight the good fight of faith!
- Something good to cling to is **Romans 12:10, 12:16**
 - Connect Groups are starting!!! Why do we do this?? (These verses!)
 - To end loneliness. We are called into community. One body with many different parts.
 - I don't really care if you do this formally in a group, or if you just include and love people on your own. But this is a bigger deal than most people realize.
 - I do care if you are willing to “associate with people of low position.” (v16)
 - When I was a kid I went to the special room for reading. Made me an ambassador of sorts.
 - Rather than being embarrassed, I took up the cause. Don't make fun of “us”!
 - Jesus wants you to do the same. Be a true friend to someone at a different place.
 - The world climbs the ladder, we reach up and reach down for true friendship.
 - I also care if you are willing to have sincere love for those at the top.
 - Often people who have “made it” can't find real friends. Help out, would you?
- Love must be sincere.
 - It starts with receiving the love of God. Then you can heal and mature into loving others.
 - Unless you are whole, you will want to either exploit or dominate people.
 - Closing Scripture is a prayer from **Ephesians 3:14-19**.
 - If you don't have this but you want it, raise your hand.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.