



Romans 12 wk6: Overcome Evil with Good

Introduction: The last 1/3 of Romans 12 deals with our relationship with people who do us harm. The natural reaction is to retaliate but transformed living requires a different approach. What would it look like if we took that approach seriously?

Discussion Questions

1. When someone does something to hurt or offend you, how do you usually respond? Does your response typically make the situation better or does it escalate the tension?
2. **Read Matthew 5:38-48** How do you think Jesus teaching about dealing with enemies was received in his context? Why do prominent leaders claim that this teaching is either weak or doesn't apply today?
3. **Read Romans 12:14-21** What are the positive and negative commands found in verse 14? What does it look like to bless an enemy? Have you ever experienced a situation where someone blessed you when you didn't deserve it? How did it make you feel and how can you apply that to your relationships with others?
4. In the sermon, Jeremy quoted Chip Ingram's idea of 3 Phases of Forgiveness: Forgive, Forgiving, Forgiven. What does that total process look like? Is it helpful to see it as more than a simple transaction?
5. Why is personal retaliation prohibited for transformed people? What are some reasons that we are reluctant to forgive/bless? If God granted forgiveness or blessing in the same way we do, what would be different?
6. If you are struggling with forgiveness, what steps can you take this week to either begin or continue that process? How can the group help?

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

Moving Forward – *“Forgiving is choosing to give another person what they need the most, when they deserve it the least, at great personal cost.” – Chip Ingram*