

Romans 12:17-21

Overcoming Evil

Overcome ...

- I. Pursue Peace
 - A. Valiant Effort
 - B. Limited Ability
- II. Show Kindness
 - A. Warm Mercy
 - B. Hot Coals
- III. Trust Θ
 - A. Man's Response
 - 1. Anger
 - 2. Softening
 - 3. Marveling
 - B. God's Honor
 - C. Divine Justice
 - 1. Now
 - 2. Finally

... *by grace*.

Children, Listen ...

1. Should we try to be kind to everyone?
2. We are told to overcome evil with what?
3. If we are kind will everyone be kind back to us?
4. How did Jesus show us the greatest kindness ever?
5. How will knowing that help you be kind to others?

What Possesses You?

When I was young and did some outlandish naughty thing my grandmother would usually say “what possesses you!?” I have finally figured out that it was not a real question ... it was more of a judgment call ... and not a positive one! The setting was usually some petty conflict with my little brother – so be assured it was not kindness that was possessing me but a degree of vengeance that surely far outweighed any offense leveled against me. Revenge took possession of all my faculties. I was overcome by the bad sibling “chemistry” of the moment. Paul teaches us that we must not let that be the case in our interpersonal relations, even in the case of those who may despise us for whatever reason. It is easy to be overcome by evil, in fact, in the face of evil it almost seems fair to retaliate in kind. But Christians have been overwhelmed, overcome and immersed in the kindness and grace of God. In light of that we are to respond to adversaries from the abundance of the grace He has given us and not from the evil we have been delivered from. What possesses you? Is it a spirit of retaliation or is it a divine goodness that reflects the love of the Savior?