

God's Answers in Romans: How do we overcome evil with good?

1. Please read Romans 12:9-21.
2. Was there anything in the sermon that concerned you, helped you or confused you?
3. Go through Romans 12 together verse by verse and make a list of the characteristics of a "Romans 12 church."
4. Please discuss your understanding of the differences between church-goers within the Roman Empire in the decades before its collapse and the Irish followers of Patrick who took the gospel, literature and a passion for learning to the barbarians on the continent.
5. Please share with the group your own self-perception regarding the extent to which you are a "Romans 12 follower" of Jesus. As you look at the characteristics you listed above in number 3, are there one or two that you feel the Holy Spirit wants you to work on?
6. Please read Romans 12:9. Do you abhor evil and are you glued to what is good? How do you do that and still love the evildoer but abhor the evil?
7. In Romans 12:9-10, three important Greek words for love are used calling us to be
 - to be unconditionally committed to each other's best,
 - to cherish each other and value each other, and
 - to be as devoted to each other as we are to our own children.

Have you ever experienced a church or fellowship where you felt that was true?
How attractive to outsiders do think such a fellowship would be?

8. Please read verse 12. Why do you think Paul exhorts us to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer within a section that is telling us how to relate to each other?

10. How can we pray for you? Please pray that CPC can become a "Romans 12 Church."

Rom 3:23

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ... RSV

Rom 5:8-10

8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. RSV

Supplemental Materials:

Christian: Are you a married man.

By-Ends: Yes, and my wife is a very virtuous woman, the daughter of a virtuous woman; she was my Lady Feigning's daughter; therefore she came of a very honorable family, and is arrived to such a pitch of breeding, that she knows how to carry it to all, even to prince and peasant. Tis true, we somewhat differ in religion from those of the stricter sort, yet but in two small points: First, we never strive against wind and tide. Secondly, we are always most zealous when religion goes in his silver slippers; we love much to walk with him in the street, if the sun shines and the people applaud him.

After more conversation, Christian says:

Christian: If you will go with us, you must go against wind and tide; the which, I perceive, is against your opinion: you must also own Religion in his rags, as well as when in his silver slippers; and stand by him, too, when bound in irons, as well as when he walketh the streets with applause.

They part ways.

By-Ends is joined by 3 men: Mr. Hold-the-world, Mr. Money-love, and Mr. Save-all. They can see Christian and Hopeful up ahead and ask By-Ends about them.

By-Ends: Why, they, after their headstrong manner, conclude that it is their duty to rush on their journey in all weathers, and I am for waiting for wind and tide. They are for hazarding all for God at a clap; and I am for taking all advantages to secure my life and estate. They are for holding their notions, though all other men be against them; but I am for religion in what, and so far as the times and my safety will bear it. They are for religion when in rags and contempt; but I am for him when he walks in his silver slippers, in the sunshine, and with applause.