

March 16/17, 2013

# **The Gospel Story: Overcome Evil with Good**

*A Study of Romans*

Romans 12:9-21

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## **Opening Discussion**

1. What will be the most effective means of convincing the people around us that “The Gospel Story” is true? What does this mean in practical terms?
2. What is the difference between behavior that is coming from the inside out and behavior that simply conforms to the rules and expectations of a particular group? Which model is more effective? Why?
3. Why is selfishness and pride contrary to the message of the Gospel? Can someone really understand and believe the message of grace and be selfish and arrogant? Why or why not?

## **Bible Study**

1. Review Romans 12:1-3. Summarize these verses in your own words.
2. Read Romans 12:9-13. Define the biblical concept of love. Is it more a commitment of the will or an emotional feeling? Compare I Corinthians 13 and Philippians 2:1-11.
3. Using Romans 12:9-13 as a guide what does it mean to “love your neighbor as yourself?”

4. Read Romans 12:14-21. Compare with Jesus' words in Matthew 5:1-12. What does this look like lived out in everyday life? Do we just let people walk all over us as Christians? When do we take our stand and when do we not?
5. What does it mean to "respect what is right in the sight of all men?" What are some values or behaviors that would seem right to pretty much everyone where you work or live or go to school?
6. Focusing on 12:19-21, what truth about God sets us free to love our enemies? Do you think downplaying the wrath of God and only defining Him as a God of love makes people more loving or more violent? Why?
7. Summarize 12:21. What does this verse mean? What does it mean to be overcome by evil and what does it mean to overcome evil with good?

## **Application**

1. Write yourself a letter to explain how to live as a Christian according to 12:9-13. How does this look at home, work, school, etc...
2. Do the same for Romans 12:14-21.
3. Read these letters to yourself once a day for the next 7 days as a reminder of how we are to live as Christians. When you find yourself acting contrary to what Paul says here in Romans pull out the letter and reread it to yourself. Next time the group meets review how this went for you.