

LECTURE #25

OVERCOMING EVIL

INTRODUCTION

1. How can we stop escalating tension and violence in Christian families?
2. What can help a husband who strikes his wife? How can we keep a Christian couple from exchanging angry words?
3. What will help siblings who are always in conflict?
4. What do you tell your child to do if a bully picks on him at school?
5. How do we help two Christians who are in a bitter fight? Or are threatening a law suit against one another?
6. How do you help a Christian who is having difficulty with hateful people on the job?

ANSWER

Teach them to respond Biblically to evil. The Biblical response is not the natural response. It is a supernatural response.

I. CONSIDER THE _____ OF EVIL.

- A. Understand the anatomy of an evil incited situation.

I Peter 3:9a - "Do not repay . . ."

Evil for _____ (I Peter 3:9)

Insult for _____ (I Peter 3:9)

Wrong for _____ (I Thes. 5:15)

Threat for _____ (I Peter 2:23)

Eye for _____ (Matt. 5:38; Ex. 21:24)

Tooth for _____ (Matt. 5:38; Ex. 21:24)

Strike for _____ (Matt. 5:39)

Law suit for _____ (Matt. 5:40; I Cor. 6:6-8)

Unforgiveness for _____ (Matt. 6:14)

Proverbs 11:27 - "He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it."

**EVIL'S
VICTORY**

Our greater
retaliation

Their greater
retaliation

**GOODNESS'
DEFEAT**

Our greater
threat

Their greater
threat

Our retaliation

Their retaliation

Our evil threat

Their evil threat

Our evil response

Initial event

Repaying evil for evil sets in motion a whirlwind of interpersonal destruction.

Initial Event: Is a perceived wrong or injustice done against us. It could be a false evaluation on our part. But, even if it is not, we must remember I Peter 2:20-21.

Realize this. If I return _____ for evil the only thing that grows is _____.

B. Allurement of an evil response is part of the pattern of this world.

The world says: "Get them _____!"
We are not to think like the world (Rom. 12:2).

Romans 1:29 - "They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of _____, _____, _____, and _____. They are _____, _____, _____, _____ and boastful; they invent ways of doing _____ . . ."

Matt. 7:11 - "If you, then, though you _____ . . ."

Key: Remember our goal. We do not counsel to make life easy, but to help

people _____ and _____ God in their lives.

II. CONSIDER THE BIBLICAL _____ ABOUT EVIL.

Psalms 34:14 - "Turn from evil and _____; seek _____ and _____ it."

Psalms 97:10 - "Let those who love the Lord _____ evil . . ."

Proverbs 8:13 - "To fear the Lord is to _____ evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech."

Proverbs 10:34 - "A _____ finds pleasure in evil conduct . . ."

Proverbs 11:27 - "Evil comes to him who _____ for it."

Proverbs 24:20 - "For the evil man has _____ . . ."

Isaiah 13:11 - "I will punish the world for its _____ . . ."

Romans 12:9 - "Hate what is evil, _____ to what is good. . ."

Romans 12:17 - "Do not repay _____ for _____ . . ."

Romans 16:19b - "I want you to be _____ about what is _____, and _____ about what is _____."

I Cor. 13:6 - "_____ does not delight in _____."

I Cor. 14:20 - "In regard to _____ be _____."

I Tim. 6:10 - "_____ of _____ is the root of all kinds of evil."

II Tim. 2:22 - "Flee the evil _____ of _____."

III. CONSIDER THE BIBLICAL _____ OF OVERCOMING EVIL.

We must stop the whirlwind effect of evil and its devastating consequences with disciplined (learned) Christ-like responses. Human responses serve only to magnify evil.

A. Develop a willingness to _____ the injustices of other men.
I Peter 2:19-23; 3:17

"Fear" will dominate us if not - Ps. 23:4, I Peter 3:13-17

- B. Learn to _____ evil responses (i.e. threats, retaliations, insults, wrongs, striking, law suits, unwillingness to forgive, etc.). Psalm 97:10; Proverbs 8:13 and 10:23; Romans 12:9.
- C. Practice _____ evil responses. Job 1:1, 8; Proverbs 11:27; I Thes. 5:22; II Tim. 2:22
- D. Reverse the whirlwind effect of evil with _____. Matt. 6:14; Luke 6:27-36; I Thes.. 5:15; I Peter 3:9-12; Romans 12:17-21 (cf - good responses - vss. 14-16).
1. When wronged, don't react according to your _____.
 2. Go to war, but fight with _____ weapons. Use good.

Homework suggestions:

1. Identify and write out those who are doing evil to you at this time. Christians? Non-Christians? Family members? so-called friends? Job-associates? Neighbors? Relatives? Enemies?
2. Write down your responses to those you have listed above. Do not be vague, be specific, get all the facts down. Pray and ask God for wisdom and discernment.
3. Ask God to forgive you of any and all of your evil responses. Seek the forgiveness of the offended parties as soon as possible.
4. Begin to write out a plan to do good and get to work on it right away. (Keep in mind your enemies' needs!) Heap good on them. Stop the destructive words of evil with the gentle responses of goodness.