

October 4-5, 2025

Title: Romans: ‘Life in the Family of God, Pt 4 – “Overcomers Who Bless” – Romans 12:14-21

Big Idea: Because Christ overcame evil with good, His mercy empowers us to respond with blessing and peace

Read Romans 12:14-21 and pray.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

The world operates on retaliation (“you hurt me, I hurt you”). Where do you see this most clearly in our culture today? How do you see it show up in yourself?

I. Bless Instead of Curse (vv.14–16)

Paul says: “Bless those who persecute you.” Why is that command so unnatural for us?

Read James 3:9-12. Pastor Jerayl mentioned how cursing fellow image-bearers is as unnatural as an apple tree producing walnuts. Where have you noticed “apple tree moments” in your own life — times you’ve spoken words that don’t fit your identity in Christ?

How can prayer for an enemy (as Jesus commands in Matt. 5 and Luke 6) change your heart posture? Have you ever tried this? What was the result?

What practical steps can we take this week to grow in empathy toward people who are hard to love and bless?

II. Pursue Peace (vv.17-19)

Read Psalm 96:13; John 5:30; Hebrews 9:27. How does remembering God as the righteous Judge free us from the need to “make it right” ourselves?

How does Christ’s example in 1 Peter 2:21–24 “entrusting himself to him who judges justly” show us a better way?

Think of a conflict you’ve experienced. What might it look like to “so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all”?

III. Overcome Evil with Good (vv.20-21)

Read Proverbs 25:21-22. This is not about punishing our enemies with “burning coals” but about showing kindness that might lead to repentance. Why is this so hard to believe or practice?

How does remembering God's mercy to *us* (that He overcame *our* evil with the good of the cross) reframe how we treat enemies?

Can you think of a time when someone overcame your wrong with kindness? How did it impact you?

What's one small, specific way you could "overcome evil with good" this week — at work, school, or home?

"Next Steps" Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

With God as FAMILY

- ☐ Reflect this week on God's mercy toward you. Where have you been shown kindness instead of judgment?
- ☐ Journal or pray through where your speech has been more cursing than blessing. Confess, and ask God to align your words with His character.

With Others as SERVANTS

- ☐ Identify one person who is difficult for you to bless. Commit to pray for them daily this week.
- ☐ Speak one intentional word of blessing to someone who doesn't expect it from you.

On Mission as MISSIONARIES

- ☐ Think of one strained relationship outside the church. Ask, "*What depends on me?*" Take a step toward peace this week, even if small.
- ☐ When someone notices your response of blessing instead of retaliation, be ready to share why: because Christ overcame evil with good at the cross.