



THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS "Good and Evil" Romans 12:9-21

No. 296

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Having dealt with evil on the cosmic scale, Paul now turns to a practical treatment of evil in the life of the individual. Showing how evil is found in attitudes as well as actions, he teaches believers how to shun evil and embrace good.

I. Good, Evil and Fellowship. vv. 9-12

A. Attitudes. v. 9

1. Love characterized by sincerity.
2. Evil hated with intensity.
3. Good embraced with tenacity.

B. Activities. vv. 10-12

1. Relationships. v. 10
 - a. Devotion to each other.
 - b. Respect for each other.
2. Responsibilities. v. 11
 - a. Approach them with enthusiasm.
 - b. Fulfill them with spiritual delight.
 - c. Accept them as service to the Lord. (Times?)
3. Reactions. v. 12
 - a. Discouragement—the joy of hope.
 - b. Opposition—patience.
 - c. Opportunity—faithfulness in prayer.

II. Good, Evil and Stewardship. vv. 13-16

A. Attitudes.

1. The recognition of resources.
2. The use/abuse of resources.

B Activities.

1. Resources—economic assets. v. 13
 - a. Meeting specific needs.
 - b. Sharing heart and hearth.
2. Resources—Christ's example. v. 14
 - a. How He handled persecution.
 - b. How we follow His example. See 1 Peter 2:23
3. Resources—community life. vv. 15-16
 - a. Genuine empathy. v. 15
 - b. Genuine acceptance—Harmony.
 - c. Genuine humility.

III. Good, Evil and Hardship.

A. Attitudes.

1. Retaliation—evil for evil. v. 17
2. Revenge—"getting even." v. 19

B. Activities.

1. Doing what is right. v. 17
2. Working towards peace. v. 18
 - a. If possible.
 - b. As it depends on you.
3. Leaving God room to work. v. 19
4. Killing enemies with kindness. v. 20
5. Overcoming rather than overcome. v. 21