

Attitudes That Will Overcome

Rom. 12:21

Introduction:

- A. Constant struggle between good and evil.
 - 1. God and Satan.
 - 2. Church and world.
 - 3. Flesh and Spirit.
- B. Attitudes discussed in Romans 12 will overcome evil with good:

Discussion:

- I. The Right Attitude Toward The World. (vv. 1-2; cf. I John 2:15,16)**
 - A. Worldliness not merely conforming to customs and styles. (cf. I Cor. 7:30; 9:19-21)
 - B. Worldliness is blindly conforming to the world without regard to will of God. (cf. v. 2)
 - 1. Behaving according to course of this world. (cf. Eph. 2:1)
 - 2. Adorning according to course of this world.
 - a. Hairstyles (1 Cor. 11:6, 14, 15)
 - b. Clothing.
 - (1) Clothing may not make man but does reflect him/her. (cf. Prov. 7:10; Jas. 2:12)
 - (2) Clothing that reflects a godly character.¹ (cf. 1 Tim. 2:9, 10)
- II. The Right Attitude Toward Ourselves. (v. 3)**
 - A. A measured self-respect is not wrong - (as “ought to think” not “think nothing”)
 - B. It is snobbery and conceit that is the problem. (v. 16)
- III. The Right Attitude Toward Service To The Lord.**
 - A. Willingly serve with all and within ability. (vv. 4-8)
 - B. Willingly serve cheerfully. (vv. 8, 12)
 - C. Willingly serve diligently - “not lagging behind in diligence” (v. 11)
 - 1. In leading or ruling. (v.8)
 - 2. In prayer. (v. 12)
 - 3. In distributing to saints. (v. 13)
 - 4. In hospitality. (v. 13).
- IV. The Right Attitude Toward One Another.**
 - A. Love and affection. (v. 9,10)
 - B. Honor giving preference to one another. (v. 10)
 - C. Impartiality. (v. 16; cf. Jas. 2:1ff).
 - D. Peaceful. (v. 18)
- V. The Right Attitude Toward Good and Evil.**
 - A. “Abhor what is evil”. (cf. Isa. 5:20; Prov. 17:15)
 - B. “Cling to what is good.” (cf. vv. 17b, 21b)
- VI. The Right Attitude Toward Our Enemies.**
 - A. Bless them. (v. 14)
 - B. Do not avenge. (vv. 17, 19-21)
 - C. Leave vengeance to the Lord.
 - 1. Through His civil power. (Rom. 13:4)
 - 2. In final judgment.

Conclusion:

- A. These attitudes may not be conformed to the world.
 - B. These attitudes will overcome evil with good.
 - 1. “Modest” - “orderly, well-arranged, decent, modest”...”of good behavior (1 Tim. 3:2 KJV)”. (Vines)
- “Propriety” (NKJV) - “Shamefacedness” (ASV) - “Shamefastness”: “that modesty which is 'fast' or rooted in the character” - Vines.
- “Moderation” (NKJV) - “Sobriety” (KJV): “Habitual inner self-government, with it constant rein on the passions and desires ...” (Vines)

“As women professing godliness” - covers nakedness, not sensuous, quite, not seductive (brief or tight clothing), not stumbling block (cf. Matt. 5:28), show off.

