

HOW TO CONQUER EVIL WITH GOOD

Note to the speaker:

Emphasize the wisdom and practicality of conquering evil with good. Show that by using good judgment, we can often avert evil, or at least cope with bad situations

ALL OF US ARE AFFECTED BY EVIL (4 min.)

Evil is anything that results in pain, sorrow, or distress (*it-1 772*)

Many experience evil in form of poor health, accidents, natural disasters, disappointments, injustices, losses of various kinds, hurtful talk, and thoughtless actions of others

Can result in immense suffering, physically and emotionally

When we experience evil, human tendency is to become resentful or blame others, even God

Some retaliate, seeking vengeance, often making matters worse

However, Bible shows it is possible to conquer evil with good (Read Romans 12:21)

Before learning how we can do so, will discuss how evil came about in the first place

THE ORIGIN OF EVIL (10 min.)

After creating the first human pair, “God saw everything he had made and, look! it was very good” (Ge 1:31)

Everything was designed to bring eternal good to mankind

Tree of knowledge of good and bad reminded Adam and Eve of God’s right to determine standards of conduct (Ge 2:16, 17)

If they were obedient, no harm or evil would come to them or offspring

Devil deceived Eve, and then both Adam and his wife disobeyed Jehovah

Thus they allowed themselves to be conquered by evil

As a result, their descendants were left with a legacy of sin and death (Ro 5:12)

Of course, Satan not directly responsible for every incident of evil that befalls mankind

Time and unforeseen occurrence, imperfection, and poor judgment can bring evil results (Ps 51:5; Pr 11:27; Ec 9:11)

Nevertheless, Satan’s influence is clearly one of the reasons why wickedness prevails today as never before

Many are “without love of goodness”—proof that we are living in “the last days” (2Ti 3:1, 3)

Great tribulation is thus imminent; God will intervene to remove wickedness from earth by destroying wicked!

Far from being morally bad, great tribulation will clear the way for ‘new heavens and new earth in which righteousness is to dwell’ (2Pe 3:7, 13)

CONQUERING EVIL WITH GOOD (28 min.)

In meantime must cope with much evil

Evil things, such as crime or accidents, can often be anticipated and avoided or at least be made less serious, by careful forethought (Pr 22:3; *w95 8/15 3-4*)

Often, though, cannot avoid evil; must try to conquer with good

Does not necessarily mean passively enduring mistreatment

Goodness is a positive quality that expresses itself in beneficial acts (*it-1 986*)

Let us now examine specific situations in which we can conquer evil with good [Note to speaker: Develop according to local needs]

Persecution (2Ti 3:12)

Conquer by refusing to compromise and by enduring with joy for the sake of the good news (Ac 5:27-29, 40-42; 1Pe 4:12-14)

By doing good or exercising kindness, may even soften persecutors (Mt 5:44; Ro 12:17-21; *it-1 1051*)

[Relate experience; *yb90 64* or other appropriate published example]

Death of a loved one

Strong, confusing emotions can arise following the death of a loved one

Grieving is normal, even beneficial (Joh 11:33-35)

However, prolonged grief can be damaging, leading to serious depression (*we 7*)

Can gradually “conquer” overwhelmingly negative emotions by applying practical Scriptural advice (*we 14-19*)

Complete trust in God and hope in his sure promises can also help ones recover (*we 26-31*)

By doing good for others, we avoid ‘isolating ourselves’ and we taste the joy that comes from giving (Pr 18:1; Ac 20:35)

When others offend us

Thoughtless words or actions of others can hurt (Pr 12:18)

Can conquer bad feelings toward others by forgiving outright or by settling differences quickly and in spirit of love (Eph 4:26, 32; Col 3:12-14)

Conquering evil with good can also include making changes in our own personality so as not to harm ourselves or others

Hurtful speech and attitudes

Anger, hatred, slander, and lying disturb peace and unity of congregation (Ga 5:15; Eph 4:31)

By continuing to progress in putting on new personality, one can *conquer* hurtful speech and attitudes with wholesome thinking and speech (Col 3:8-10)

Misuse of alcohol

Immoderate use of alcohol can pose both physical and moral dangers (Pr 23:20, 21, 29-35; *it-1* 656)

By overindulging, we bring evil upon ourselves

Conquer by moderation or by abstinence

Moderate drinking is possible for many who rely on Jehovah and exercise self-control

Those who have developed a serious dependency upon alcohol need to put forth strenuous efforts to break free of addiction (g92 5/22 6-7)

Bad associations

Our emotions and conduct are greatly affected by those we choose as associates (Pr 22:24, 25; 1Co 15:33)

Choosing to mingle with those who are not servants of God can bring calamity (Ge 34:1-3; *w85* 6/15 31; *rs* 189)

Conquer by selecting upbuilding associates within congregation

Love of money

The love of money can cause one to forget Bible principles (Pr 28:20; 1Ti 6:9, 10)

Could lead one to adopt dishonest business practices or even exploit relationship with brothers for financial gain

Christian *conquers* such 'evils' by fulfilling obligations and avoiding sharp practices (Pr 21:6; Mt 5:37)

Conquers, too, by being content with necessities (Mt 6:33, 34; Heb 13:5)

REWARDS OF CONQUERING EVIL WITH GOOD (3 min.)

Brings greater happiness and contentment in life now

We can have satisfaction of knowing we did right thing and are pleasing to God (1Pe 3:10-17)

By conquering evil with good, we glorify God

Evildoers may be moved by our upright example (1Pe 2:12)

Ultimately, those who conquer evil with good will be rewarded with everlasting life and happiness (Ps 37:27)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)