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Overcome Evil by Doing Good

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, chapter 12, challenges us to work through our issues by overcoming all negativity and evil by doing good. How difficult is this? My goodness!

The Old Testament adage of “an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth” is replaced by forgiveness, reconciliation, “turn the other cheek,” move forward, and move on. This is the New Testament Gospel message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Who, on the Cross, forgave his tormentors with His holy and blessed statement: “Father forgive them; they do not understand what they are doing.”

Life’s circumstances, my dear friends, fill our plates with countless challenges. One of the greatest of the multitude of evil thoughts, words, and deeds is holding on to a grudge. The Encarta Dictionary defines “grudge” as a feeling of ill will, especially one lasting for a long time. It’s easy to hold on to “bad feelings” about someone who has hurt us, offended us, outraged us, et al. However, looking to payback evil actions by returning the hurt is not the better way to handle the situation.

As thorny as it is, we, each of us, as good Christians, must seek to pass the test of faith with flying colors by “doing good.” It is easier said than done, but we must try, and, be successful at it. Otherwise, our Christian outlook becomes muddy...

Please.... Let’s be clear! We do not have to be “buddy buddy” with those whom we do not see eye to eye. At the same time, we are invited to “love one another,” “forgive 70 times 7,” “to rise to the occasion,” “to ask the Lord to forgive those who love us, and those who despise us,” and to “love one another.” Making peace and not war is a holy approach to life...

Let us then keep moving forward by seeking firstly “the Kingdom of Heaven.” Let us be focused on emphasizing the good in all things and “not throwing the baby out with the bathwater.” Let’s guard our mouth, our thoughts, and our actions. Let us always be peacemakers and not warmongers. Amen!

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