



Seventh Day Adventist Church Inter-European Division

Sabbath School Ministry

Sabbath School Department Inter-European Division

Outline with ideas for group discussion largely taken from the Teachers' Edition of the Sabbath School Lesson prepared by the General Conference SS ministry.

Lesson no.: 12 **16 – 22 December 2017**
Title: **Overcoming Evil with Good**
Key texts: ***Romans 12 - 13.***

A. Themes to Explore:

1. In the last part of his letter Paul concentrates on practical aspects: the transformation of the believer's life.
2. Romans 12:1-3 illustrate clearly how the new life in Christ can be produced in us: all starts in the mind.
3. Romans 12:9-16 beautifully describe the characteristics of the believer who loves; today much is said about **assertiveness**¹.
4. Be joined to Christ by seeking to know Him: this produces all the fruits of the Spirit in us.
5. After having discussed salvation, Paul deliberately inserts the theme Christ's Return in this context.

B. Learning Objectives*

Know: Understand that the renewing of the mind proceeds from a relationship between God and believer.

Feel: Apply yourself daily to seeking excellence in the style and quality of your life and character.

Do: Identify the "places" through which God is free to direct our lives.

C. Other possible questions for deeper study, debate, sharing and testimony**

1. **Why is this lesson important to me? (Motivate);**
 - 1a. What relationship (or contrast) is there between transformation of your character into His image and obedience?
2. **What else is there still to learn from God's Word? (Explore);**
 - 2a. Romans 12:1-2. What are the steps and where do we start in order to see the fruits of the saving grace of Christ realized in us?
 - 2b. What conditions lead to the "transformation of the mind" and permit Him to act in us?
3. **How can I practice what I've learned from God's Word? (Apply);**
 - 3a. Discuss Romans 12:9-16 in your group, examining them in the light of the aspects of behaviour mentioned below in the footnote.
4. **How can I communicate and apply what I've learned from God's Word? (Create).**
 - 4a. How can we present this message of salvation and transformation to our neighbours in an attractive way?

NOTES:

- * Copied from the Teachers Edition that adopts active, functional and sharing principles (Know, Feel, Do).
- ** To compare and use together with the final questions found in the lesson study every Friday.
- *** The questions in red are drawn from the Teachers Edition.

¹ Search the internet for the meaning of **assertive** or **assertiveness**. A brief description follows:

- To have a balanced sense of self-esteem
- Seek open communication, respectful of others
- Express oneself without hesitancy, fear or aggression
- Accept criticism
- Recognize and appreciate the merits of others
- Self-control in the management of conflicts