

THE LINE BETWEEN GOOD & EVIL

9:30AM
SUNDAYS

MAY 10 thru
JUNE 14 - 2026

Week 1 - The Line Between Good & Evil

Day 1: The Battle Within

Scripture: Romans 7:19 “For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do —this I keep on doing.” Paul’s honesty is disarming. The line between good and evil isn’t just “out there”—it runs through the human heart. We often assume that knowing what is right will naturally lead us to do it. But experience proves otherwise. There’s a tension between intention and action, desire and discipline.

Recognizing this inner conflict is not failure—it’s clarity. You can’t overcome what you won’t admit exists.

Where do you see this struggle in your own life? What “good” do you consistently fail to follow through on? What patterns of sin feel repetitive or stubborn?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for honesty about your inner struggles and the humility to acknowledge where sin still has influence.

Day 2: What God Requires

Scripture: Micah 6:8. “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” While Paul highlights the struggle in yesterday’s verse, Micah gives clarity: God’s standard isn’t hidden. Justice, Mercy, Humility—these define the “good” side of the line. Notice that all three require action and posture:

Justice — confronts wrong.

Mercy — responds with compassion.

Humility — keeps us dependent on God.

Good isn’t just avoiding evil—it’s actively embodying God’s character.

Which of these (justice, mercy, humility) is hardest for you right now? How does pride blur the line between good and evil in your decisions? Where is God inviting you to act differently?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to shape your heart toward justice, mercy, and humility—not just in theory, but in your daily interactions.

Day 3: Naming Sin Honestly

Scripture: 1 John 1:8–9 “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us...”. You don’t overcome sin by minimizing it. You overcome it by naming it. The danger isn’t just doing evil—it’s justifying it, renaming it, or ignoring it.

Confession is not about shame—it’s about alignment. It brings your reality into the light of God’s truth. The line between good and evil becomes clearer the more honest you are with God.

Are there sins you tend to excuse or rationalize? What would full honesty with God look like today? How does confession change your awareness of right and wrong?

Prayer Focus:

Confess specific sins—not vague generalities. Ask for both forgiveness and transformation.

Day 4: The Power to Overcome

Scripture: Galatians 5:16 “*Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*”

Trying harder isn’t enough. Paul doesn’t say, “Fight the flesh harder”—he says, “Walk by the Spirit.” Overcoming evil isn’t just resistance; it’s replacement.

When your life is filled with the Spirit—your thoughts, habits, and desires begin to shift. The line between good and evil becomes not just clearer, but more livable.

Spiritual practices (prayer, Scripture, community) aren’t checkboxes—they are how you stay connected to the Spirit’s power.

What does “walking by the Spirit” look like in your daily routine? Where are you relying on willpower instead of God’s power? What spiritual habits help you stay aligned with God?

Prayer Focus:

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, reactions, and decisions today.

Day 5: Living on the Side of Good

Scripture: Romans 12:21 “*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*” The goal isn’t just avoiding evil—it’s actively overcoming it with good. That means choosing forgiveness over bitterness, generosity over selfishness, truth over deception.

Every small choice matters. The “line” between good and evil isn’t just philosophical—it’s formed by daily decisions.

Victory over sin isn’t *perfection—it’s direction*. Are you moving toward God or away from Him?

What is one concrete way you can overcome evil with good today? Where are you tempted to “fight evil with evil” (anger, revenge, withdrawal)? What would it look like to consistently choose God’s way this week?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for strength to choose good intentionally, especially in moments where it’s difficult or costly.

Closing Thought

The line between good and evil isn’t just a boundary to observe—it’s a battle to engage. And you’re not left to fight it alone. Through honesty, surrender, and the power of the Spirit, you can move steadily toward the good God calls you to live.

Week 2 — Making Sense of the Devil

Day 1: Understanding the Reality of Evil

Scripture: Ephesians 6:11–12 *“Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes...”* Scripture doesn’t present evil as imaginary or symbolic only—it is real and strategic. But notice Paul’s emphasis: not fear, but preparation. The devil operates through “schemes”—subtle distortions, lies, and temptations.

This passage reframes the battle. *PEOPLE ARE NOT THE ENEMY*. The struggle is spiritual, not merely relational or circumstantial.

Understanding this changes how you respond to conflict, temptation, and hardship.

Where might you be treating a spiritual issue as merely a personal or relational one? How does knowing the battle is “not against flesh and blood” change your perspective? What “schemes” (patterns, lies, temptations) do you notice in your life?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for spiritual awareness—to recognize the difference between surface-level problems and deeper spiritual battles.

Day 2: The Nature of the Devil’s Work

Scripture: John 8:44 *“When he lies, he speaks his native language...”* Jesus describes the devil primarily as a liar. His power is not in forcing sin, but in deceiving hearts and minds. He twists truth, distorts identity, and plants doubt.

Many spiritual struggles begin with a lie: “You’ll never change.” “This won’t hurt anyone.” “God doesn’t really care.” Recognizing lies is essential to resisting them. What lies are easiest for you to believe? How do those lies influence your decisions or emotions? What truth from Scripture directly challenges those lies?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to expose false beliefs in your thinking and replace them with truth.

Day 3: Temptation and Personal Responsibility

Scripture: James 1:14–15 *“Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire...”* While the devil tempts, Scripture is clear: we are not passive victims. Temptation often connects with our own desires. This keeps us from blaming everything externally. The line between spiritual attack and personal responsibility matters. Growth happens when you own your choices while staying aware of spiritual influence.

Freedom comes through both resistance and repentance. Where do your desires make you vulnerable to temptation? Do you tend to blame outside forces instead of taking responsibility? What practical steps can you take to resist recurring temptations?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for honesty about your own desires and strength to resist temptation.

Day 4: The Authority of Christ Over Evil

Scripture: Colossians 2:15 *“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them...”* The devil is not equal to God. The outcome of the battle is not uncertain. Through Christ, evil has already been decisively defeated. This changes everything. You don’t fight **for** victory—you fight **from** victory. Spiritual warfare is not about panic or obsession—it’s about standing firm in what Christ has already accomplished. Do you live as though evil is winning, or as though Christ has already won? How does Christ’s victory reshape your fears? What would it look like to stand confidently in that truth today?

Prayer Focus:

Thank God for Christ's victory and ask for confidence in His authority over your life.

Day 5: Standing Firm and Living Free

Scripture: James 4:7 *"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* The strategy is simple, but not easy: submit and resist. Submission to God strengthens you; resistance to the devil weakens his influence.

Notice the order—submission comes first. Victory over evil isn't about sheer resistance, but about alignment with God. Freedom is not found in obsessing over the devil, but in staying close to God. What does true submission to God look like in your life right now? Where do you need to actively resist instead of passively giving in? How can you stay consistently rooted in God this week?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to deepen your surrender and strengthen your ability to resist temptation.

Closing Thought

"Making sense of the devil" isn't about fascination—it's about clarity. Scripture gives a balanced view: the devil is real, but not ultimate; active, but not all-powerful; dangerous, but already defeated in Christ. Your focus isn't on fear—it's on faithfulness.

Week 3 - Systemic Evil

Day 1: When Evil Seems to Win

Scripture: Psalm 37:1–2 *"Do not fret because of those who are evil... for like the grass they will soon wither..."* Systemic evil can feel overwhelming because it's bigger than individual actions—it's embedded in systems, cultures, and patterns that seem to reward wrongdoing. Psalm 37 acknowledges this reality without denying it.

The writer of this Psalm, David, doesn't pretend evil isn't prospering—he tells us how to respond when it does. "Do not fret" isn't passive—it's a call to resist anxiety, envy, and despair when injustice appears to flourish. God's timeline is longer than ours. What looks permanent is often temporary. Where do you see systemic evil "prospering" in the world around you? How does it affect your faith when injustice seems to go unchecked? What does it look like to trust God's timing instead of reacting in frustration?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for peace when you feel overwhelmed by injustice and the patience to trust His ultimate justice.

Day 2: Trusting God While Doing Good

Scripture: Psalm 37:3 *"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture."* The temptation when facing systemic evil is either rage or resignation. Scripture offers a third way: "trust God and keep doing good."

Doing good may feel small compared to large systems of injustice—but Scripture consistently affirms that faithful obedience matters. Your integrity, your actions, your choices—they are not insignificant. God's kingdom often grows quietly, but powerfully. Where are you tempted to give up doing good? What "small acts of faithfulness" is God calling you to right now? How does trust in God fuel action instead of passivity?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to strengthen your resolve to do good, even when it feels unnoticed or ineffective.

Day 3: The Danger of Complicity

Scripture: Isaiah 10:1–2 *“Woe to those who make unjust laws...”* Systemic evil isn’t just “out there”—it persists when people participate in, benefit from, or ignore injustice. Scripture doesn’t just condemn obvious wrongdoing; it also confronts unjust systems and those who uphold them.

This is where the conversation gets uncomfortable. It invites self-examination:

Where might I be unaware? Where might I be silent? Where might I benefit without questioning?

Conviction isn’t meant to paralyze—it’s meant to awaken. Are there systems or patterns you benefit from but rarely question? Where have you stayed silent when you should have spoken up? What would repentance look like in this area?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for awareness of where you may be complicit in injustice, and courage to respond.

Day 4: God’s Heart for Justice

Scripture: Micah 6:8 *“Act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”* You might remember this verse from earlier in this study. God’s response to systemic evil is not indifference—it is justice, mercy, and humility lived out through His people.

Justice addresses wrong. Mercy restores people. Humility keeps us dependent on God rather than self-righteous.

The call is not just to critique broken systems, but to embody a different way of living within them. Which of these (justice, mercy, humility) is hardest for you to live out? How can you pursue justice without losing humility? Where is God inviting you to be part of restoration?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to align your heart with His—growing in justice, mercy, and humility.

Day 5: Hope Beyond the System

Scripture: Psalm 37:27–29 *“Turn from evil and do good... the righteous will inherit the land...”*

Psalm 37 ends with hope—not in human systems, but in God’s ultimate justice. Systems may fail, but God’s purposes do not. This doesn’t mean disengaging—it means working for good without placing ultimate hope in human institutions. Your hope is anchored in God’s faithfulness, not the success of systems.

You can engage deeply without being consumed, because your hope is secure. Where have you placed too much hope in human systems? How does eternal perspective reshape your engagement with injustice? What does it look like to live with both urgency and hope?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to anchor your hope in Him—not in outcomes, systems, or immediate results.

Closing Thought

Systemic evil is real—and Scripture doesn’t ignore it. But neither does it leave you powerless. You are called to trust God, examine your own life, act justly, and hold onto hope.

You don’t have to fix everything—but you are responsible for faithfulness where you are.

Week 4 - Evil Temptations

Day 1: Pride – The Root of Sin

Scripture: Proverbs 16:18; James 4:6. *“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”* Pride sits beneath nearly every other sin. It elevates self above God and others, distorting reality. It whispers, “I know better,” or “I deserve more.” Temptation often begins here—not with obvious wrongdoing, but with a shift in posture. When humility fades, vulnerability to sin increases. Pride blinds us. It makes evil feel justified. Where does pride show up in subtle ways in your life? How does pride distort your view of God or others? What would humility look like in a current struggle?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to reveal hidden pride and cultivate a heart of humility and dependence.

Day 2: Envy & Greed – The Sin of Comparison

Scripture: James 3:16; Luke 12:15 *“Where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”* Envy says, “I want what they have...and I don’t want them to have it.” Greed says, “What I have isn’t enough.” Both are fueled by comparison and discontentment. In a culture built on constant exposure to others’ lives, these temptations are amplified. These sins don’t just affect what we want—they shape how we see others. Instead of gratitude, we feel resentment. Instead of generosity, we grasp tightly. Who or what do you tend to compare yourself to? Where do you struggle with “never enough”? How can you practice gratitude and generosity today?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to grow contentment in your heart and free you from comparison.

Day 3: Lust – Misplaced Desire

Scripture: Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 6:18 *“Anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery...”* Lust is not just about physical desire—it’s about reducing people to objects for personal gratification. It takes something good (desire) and distorts it into something consuming and self-centered. Temptation here often begins in the mind—what you dwell on, what you entertain, what you normalize. The goal isn’t suppression alone, but transformation—learning to see others with dignity and honor. What influences (media, habits, environments) feed lust in your life? How do your thought patterns shape your actions? What boundaries or changes would help you pursue purity?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for purity in thought, heart, and action.

Day 4: Anger & Sloth – Misdirected Energy

Scripture: Ephesians 4:26–27; Proverbs 13:4 *“In your anger do not sin... do not give the devil a foothold.”* Anger and sloth seem like opposites—but both involve misdirected energy. Anger can erupt destructively when unchecked. Sloth avoids responsibility and neglects what matters. One reacts too quickly. The other fails to act at all. Both open the door to deeper patterns of sin when left unexamined. Righteous anger can exist—but it must be shaped by love and self-control. Where does anger tend to take over in your life? Where do you avoid action or responsibility? How can you channel your energy in a healthy, God-honoring way?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for self-control—both in your reactions and your responsibilities.

Day 5: Gluttony & the Path to Freedom

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 5:16 *“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind...”*. Gluttony is about overconsumption—whether food, entertainment, comfort, or control. It reveals a deeper struggle: looking to created things to fill what only God can satisfy. But Scripture offers hope: Temptation is common — God provides a way out — The Spirit empowers change.

Freedom from evil and temptation doesn't come from willpower alone—it comes from walking with God daily. You won't eliminate temptation—but you can grow stronger in resisting it. What do you tend to over consume or rely on for comfort? When are you most vulnerable to temptation? What “way out” might God be providing that you haven't taken?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for discipline and a deeper hunger for Him over temporary satisfaction.

Closing Thought

Evil and temptation rarely appear in obvious forms—they work through subtle distortions of desire, identity, and truth. But as you grow in awareness, humility, and dependence on God, you begin to recognize and resist them more clearly.

The goal isn't perfection—it's transformation.

Week 5 - Evil In The Name Of God

Day 1: When Religion Becomes a Cover

Scripture: Matthew 23:27–28 *“Woe to you... you are like whitewashed tombs... outwardly appear righteous... but inside are full of hypocrisy...”* Jesus' strongest words weren't aimed at obvious sinners—but at religious leaders who used God's name to mask corruption. This is sobering. It means spiritual language, leadership, and outward devotion can coexist with inward brokenness.

Evil done “in God's name” often looks righteous on the surface. That's what makes it dangerous—it deceives both others and ourselves. This isn't just about “them.” It's an invitation to examine whether our faith is authentic or performative. Why is hypocrisy especially damaging when connected to faith? Where is it easy to prioritize appearance over authenticity? How can you cultivate integrity between your inner life and outward actions?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to reveal any hypocrisy in your life and to align your outward faith with inward truth.

Day 2: Misusing Scripture and Authority

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:16 *“Ignorant and unstable people distort [Scripture]... to their own destruction.”* Scripture is powerful—but it can be misused. Throughout history, people have twisted biblical texts to justify harm, control, exclusion, or personal agendas. Even the devil quoted Scripture when tempting Jesus (Matthew 4). The issue isn't just “using” Scripture—it's how and why it's used. Healthy interpretation requires humility, context, and alignment with the broader character of God—especially His justice, mercy, and love.

Have you ever seen Scripture used in a harmful or controlling way? What safeguards help prevent misinterpretation? How can you ensure your understanding of Scripture reflects God's character?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for wisdom to understand Scripture rightly and not manipulate it for personal gain.

Day 3: Zeal Without Love

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 *“If I... have not love, I am nothing.”* Passion for God can become dangerous when it is disconnected from love. History—and Scripture—show that people can be deeply sincere and deeply wrong at the same time. Zeal alone is not proof of righteousness. Without love, it can justify harshness, judgment, and even cruelty—all while believing it's “for God.” True faith is measured not just by conviction, but by compassion. Where can zeal become harmful if not guided by love? Have you ever justified a harsh attitude in the name of “truth”? What does it look like to hold conviction and compassion together?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to anchor your convictions in love and guard your heart from harshness.

Day 4: When Power Corrupts Faith

Scripture: Micah 3:11 *“Her leaders judge for a bribe... her prophets tell fortunes for money...”* Spiritual authority can be misused when power, influence, or personal gain take priority over faithfulness. When leaders use God's name to control, manipulate, or elevate themselves, harm follows. This is not a new problem—it's deeply rooted in human nature. The antidote is humility, accountability, and a commitment to serve rather than dominate. Jesus redefined leadership as servanthood—not control. Why is spiritual authority particularly vulnerable to corruption? What are signs of healthy vs. unhealthy leadership? How can accountability protect against misuse of power?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to purify your motives and give integrity to those in spiritual leadership.

Day 5: True Faith Reflects God's Character

Scripture: Micah 6:8; John 13:35 *“Act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* The clearest safeguard against “evil in the name of God” is aligning with God's character. True faith consistently reflects: Justice instead of oppression. Mercy instead of harshness. Humility instead of pride. Love instead of control. When actions contradict these, something is off—no matter how “spiritual” it sounds. Discernment isn't cynicism—it's faithfulness. How can you discern whether something done “in God's name” truly reflects Him? Which of these (justice, mercy, humility, love) do you most need to grow in? How can your life be a witness to authentic, Christ-centered faith?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to shape your life so that it reflects His character clearly and consistently.

Closing Thought

“Evil in the name of God” is not just a historical problem—it’s an ongoing temptation. But Scripture gives clarity: God is not honored by hypocrisy, manipulation, or harm. He is revealed through truth, humility, justice, and love. The goal is not suspicion of everything—but faithful discernment, starting with your own heart.

Week 6 - Evil’s Ultimate Defeat

Day 1: The Reality of the Battle (Personal & Cosmic)

Scripture: Romans 7:15–16 *“I do not understand what I do... what I hate I do.”* Before we talk about evil’s defeat “out there,” Scripture starts “in here.” Paul describes the internal conflict we all recognize—the tension between what we know is right and what we actually do. Evil isn’t just a future enemy to be destroyed; it’s a present struggle to be faced. The same brokenness that exists in the world also shows up in our hearts. Recognizing this keeps us humble. It reminds us that the battle is both cosmic and personal. Where do you feel this inner conflict most strongly right now? How does acknowledging your struggle change how you view evil in the world? Why is humility important in this conversation?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God for honesty about your internal struggles and clarity about where you need His help.

Day 2: The Cry for Rescue

Scripture: Romans 7:24–25 *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me...? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* Paul doesn’t stay stuck in frustration—he moves to dependence. The turning point is realizing that “we cannot defeat evil on our own”. This is where many people get stuck: trying harder instead of surrendering deeper. Evil’s ultimate defeat begins with a personal rescue. Before it is fully removed from the world, it is confronted through Christ in us. Where are you still trying to “fix yourself” instead of trusting Christ? What does surrender actually look like in your daily life? How does Jesus change the way you face temptation?

Prayer Focus:

Surrender your struggles to Christ. Ask Him to be your deliverer, not just your example.

Day 3: The Victory of Christ Over Evil

Scripture: Revelation 19:11–16 *“He judges and wages war... King of kings and Lord of lords.”* Revelation pulls back the curtain: Jesus is not only Savior—He is victorious King. Evil will not linger indefinitely. It will be confronted and defeated. This passage reminds us that history is not spiraling—it is moving toward a decisive victory. For those overwhelmed by evil, this is hope. For those casual about sin, this is a wake-up call. Christ doesn’t negotiate with evil—He overcomes it. How does this image of Jesus challenge your current view of Him? Where do you feel like evil is “winning” right now? How does knowing the end of the story shape your present faith?

Prayer Focus:

Thank Jesus for His authority and victory. Ask for confidence in His ultimate triumph.

Day 4: The Final Defeat of Evil

Scripture: Revelation 20:10 *“The devil... was thrown into the lake of fire...”* Scripture is clear: evil has an expiration date. It is not eternal, not equal to God, and not ultimately in control. This matters more than it may seem. If evil were permanent, hope would always be fragile. But because evil will be fully and finally defeated, hope is solid. This also reframes your struggles—what you fight now will not last forever. What difference does it make that evil is not eternal? Where do you need hope that things will not always be this way? How does this truth help you persevere?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to anchor your hope in His final victory, especially in areas where you feel weary.

Day 5: Living in Victory Now

Scripture: Revelation 21:3–4 (forward vision) *“He will wipe every tear... there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...”*. The story doesn’t end with defeat—it ends with restoration. Evil is removed, but more importantly, God makes all things new. But this isn’t just future hope—it shapes present living. You don’t wait passively for that day. You begin living now as someone aligned with that future. Choosing good over evil. Trusting God over fear. Walking in the Spirit over the flesh. The victory is coming—but it’s also already at work in you. What would it look like to live as someone shaped by future hope? Where is God inviting you to choose victory today? How can your life reflect the coming restoration of all things?

Prayer Focus:

Ask God to help you live today in light of eternity—reflecting His goodness in your daily choices.

Closing Thought

Evil’s ultimate defeat is not just a distant promise—it’s a present reality unfolding: In your heart, through Christ...In history, through God’s plan...In eternity through final victory. You are not just waiting for the end of evil—you are participating in its defeat, one surrendered step at a time.