Introduction

It can be a shocking truth to discover that Jesus said, “In this world you will have trouble.” John 16:33
The truth is we live in a fallen world and we see the evidence of sin all around us.

“So how do we overcome the evil around us?
The answer is to be like Jesus.
“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps.” I Peter 2:21

“‘In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.’” II Timothy 3:12-13

I. WE ARE TO BE LIKE JESUS IN OUR SPEECH. VERSE 14
"Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse."

What does it mean to bless and to curse?
• To bless is to wish someone well, to pray for them or speak well of them.
• To curse is to call down God's wrath, to pray against them or to wish for their disaster.

The natural human response when we are mistreated or attacked is to strike back in the same way.

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Matthew 5:43-45

What would Jesus do?
How would you apply this passage to politics?

“When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:23-24
Compassion combines sorrow for the sufferings of others with a desire to help. Empathy is the ability to share in another person's feelings or emotions.

In the church we are to rejoice with those who rejoice. And we grieve with those who are going through difficulties or loss.

To do that with our enemies is radical.

“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”
Acts 7:60

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Luke 23:34
“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.”

Jesus identified with the poor and lowly. In the church, we are to be like Jesus too.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4

When it comes to outreach in the community, there is no place for superiority either.

“Evangelism is just one beggar showing another beggar where to find bread.”

IV. WE ARE TO BE LIKE JESUS IN OUR CONDUCT. VERSES 17-21

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil.”

“Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.”
Don’t let your conduct destroy your testimony as a Christian.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends upon you, live at peace with everyone.”
“Don’t take revenge, but leave room for God’s wrath.”
“Don’t be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Who has hurt you the most?
Who do you need to forgive?

Conclusion

“You are never more like Jesus than when you treat people in a way they don’t deserve.” Chip Ingram
How do we overcome the evil aimed at us?

We follow Jesus example:
• In our speech.
• In our compassion.
• In our attitude.
• In our conduct.