

GOODNESS--The Mysterious Virtue?

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, GOODNESS, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

BOTTOM LINE: We are not saved by being good; but we are good because we are saved.

I. MISUNDERSTANDING GOODNESS

Mark 10:17-22 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone.¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'^[a] ²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

II. _____ GOODNESS

If we are to be called good it must come from God. It must be a gift from Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin^[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Def: Goodness is "holiness of life which expresses itself in always doing what is in the best interest of others."

-Moral Goodness = "Conformity to God's laws and principles."

-Practical Goodness = "applying those principles in our relationship to others."

(www.sermoncentral.com, Pear of Goodness, James Westervelt , 1)

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the LORD;

my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation

and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,

as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

III. _____ GOODNESS (G.O.O.D.)

Matthew 7:17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit

Out of positional goodness grows practical goodness.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Colossians 1:10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

In the book of Acts, there are two people - a man and a woman - who are called "good."

Barnabas and Dorcas

Acts 11:24 (Barnabas) He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

G. is _____

Acts 9:36 (Dorcas) In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

Matthew 6:21 (Jesus Speaking) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

O. IS _____ GOD'S WORD

O. IS _____ MATTER

Philippians 2:4,3-5 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Acts 9:36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

Matthew 22:39-40 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good."
—Samuel Johnson (Classic Wisdom For the Good Life, Edited by Bryan Curtis, 46)

Do I demonstrate God's heart toward people?

D. IS _____ TO GOD

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'^{1a}

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