

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOVEMBER 6, 2022

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“The goodness of God is in his generosity and graciousness in giving us himself by his own gracious spirit. It is the enormous energy of his light and the life extinguishing the evil in and around me. This goodness is the pulsing, powerful, performance of right in the midst of wrong all around us.” – W. Philip Keller

This week Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in the *Fruit of the Spirit* series, focusing on goodness. All goodness comes from the goodness of God. Goodness is an inner quality; it is kindness in action.

Goodness is defined as a deliberate preference of right over wrong—a deliberate resistance of all moral evil, choosing and following all moral good. In Greek, goodness has the specific meaning of being energized to act in a benevolent (on behalf of others) way. It implies that one can demonstrate goodness when exhorting or rebuking when it is for someone’s good. It is something we do ... but it must grow out of who we are.

Goodness is revealed in three characteristics:

- Integrity: Good people are the same in every situation.
- Purity: Good people have their hearts in the right place.
- Behavior: Good people are people who do good things.

SCRIPTURE

GALATIANS 5:16-26

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

TITUS 3:1-2

Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. ² They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.

LUKE 4:1-13

Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry.

³ Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread."

⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. ⁷ I will give it all to you if you will worship me."

⁸ Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say,
'You must worship the Lord your God
and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off!

¹⁰ For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect and guard you.

¹¹ And they will hold you up with their hands
so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'

¹² Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

¹³ When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.

² He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.

³ He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.

⁴ Even when I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You honor me by anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.

⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and Titus 3:1-2. List the qualities that relate to goodness. Give reasons for your answers.
3. How does the world define goodness? How does this differ from the goodness that comes from abiding in God?

4. Read Luke 4:1-9. What can get in the way of the fruit of the Spirit, goodness? How did Jesus not succumb to these temptations? How does this encourage you?
5. Read Psalm 23. How would you describe God's goodness that is summarized at the end of this psalm?
6. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Thank God for his goodness, manifesting in loving kindness, mercy, and grace. Ask God to search your heart for those things that get in the way of his goodness being lived out in you. Pray for opportunities this week to show God's goodness to others.