



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 6 - Number 23
The week of May 23, 2021

A Life Well Lived
A Chip Off the Ol' Block
Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22, 23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

STUDY NOTE

Today we examine the unique Fruit of the Spirit called “goodness”. The word goodness has many different contexts in our modern vernacular and people of faith, as well as people who don’t share our faith, all strive to live this character trait out as we go about our lives. While the concept of goodness can be seen as something we all universally strive for, the biblical concept of goodness provides a depth for us as Christians that we’ll explore in today’s study. Our ultimate example for goodness is God Himself and biblical goodness is truly a fruit of the Spirit, not something that we possess on our own.

Read Genesis 1:1-31

This is the creation account that we are all familiar with.

1. Why did God declare that each part of His creation was “good?”
2. What was different about the creation of humans that God used the phrase “very good?”
3. In context of Genesis 1, how do you define what it means for something to be good?

Read the following passages from selected Psalms. They each point to the truth of God's goodness.

Read Psalms 25:6-9, 34:8, 100:4, 5

Ps. 25:6-9

- ⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
⁹ He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

Ps. 34:8

- ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Ps. 100:4, 5

- ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

4. How is God's goodness demonstrated in the Old Testament? What Bible passages or stories can you point to that show the goodness of God in the Old Testament?
5. How is God's goodness demonstrated in the New Testament? What Bible passages or stories can you point to that show the goodness of God in the New Testament?
6. How has God's goodness been demonstrated in your life or in the lives of those around you?

Read Psalm 53

The words and theme of this Psalm are repeated in Psalm 14 and in Romans 3.

7. What is the message of goodness in this Psalm?

8. If we are created in God's image (Genesis 1), how can humanity be without goodness?

9. How do you see wickedness (opposite of goodness) alive and well in our human condition today?

10. If goodness is a life attribute we all strive for, why is it so difficult for humanity to live out?

STUDY NOTE

What changes this seemingly hopeless state of broken humanity without true biblical goodness? *The saving power of the gospel*. Once the light of the Holy Spirit enters into a person, the capacity for true biblical goodness becomes realized.

The last passage for us to look at is Matthew 5:13-16.

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

11. Where do you see the word “good” in these verses? Highlight them.

12. Who empowers us with biblical goodness? How does this happen?

13. Based on these verses, what are we to do with the light that God has commissioned us to be?

14. When people see the light of the Holy Spirit in us as Christians, what do they see and to whom do they give the glory? Why shouldn’t we get the glory since it’s our lives?

CLOSING REFLECTION

Goodness as a Fruit of the Spirit is living in such a way that glorifies God and as a witness for others to see the light of the Holy Spirit in us. It is reclaiming the *Imago Dei* (image of God) that was lost in us through sin. Biblical goodness is us reflecting the very character of God. To do this in our own strength is impossible; this can only come from the Holy Spirit at work within us. Close your time in prayer for the goodness of God to be a light that others see in you and by which God is glorified.

Sermon Notes: *A Chip Off the Ol' Block*

Galatians 5:22-23

THE
BIBLE RECAP
BY D-GROUP

Sunday, May 23 thru Saturday, May 29, 2021

2 Samuel 24, 1 Chronicles 21-22, Ps. 108-110;

1 Chron. 23-25; Ps. 5, 131, 138-139, 143-145;

1 Chron. 26-29, Ps. 127; Ps. 111-118; 1 Kings 1-2;

Ps. 37, 71, 94

