

INSIDE OUT

NINE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY

The Fruit of the Spirit
#6 "GOODNESS"
The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
March 19, 2017

Please READ together Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

1. In this study we will focus on the spiritual fruit of 'goodness.' In what ways is the word 'good' over used in our society? What do you think people mean when they something is 'good'?
2. READ the definition of goodness:
"THE SPIRITUAL FRUIT OF GOODNESS ALLOWS BROKEN HUMANITY TO DO GOOD AND BE GOOD---GOOD IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD. GOODNESS IS THE ESSENCE OF GOD'S NATURE."
 - a. In what way do you understand humanity to be broken?
3. READ Psalm 145:9. What characteristic of God is mentioned here and what is the result of that characteristic?
4. READ Exodus 34-37
 - a. What characteristics of God are mentioned here?
 - b. How would you relate these character traits to God being good?
5. READ Psalm 25:8. What is God called here? What action is attributed to his goodness?
6. READ James 1:17. What does God give? What character traits are attributed to him?
7. READ Psalm 34:8-10. How is the Lord defined here? What is the result and promise given to those who trust him?
8. READ Psalm 100:5. What do you think the difference is between the phrases 'the Lord is good' and 'the Lord does good'?
9. DISCUSS this statement.
"Good is defined in terms of God and not the other way around. God is the standard of good. God, himself, is good. It is who he is."
10. DISCUSS:
"If God is good (at his core or essence) then he can do nothing that is not good. Every action God takes flows from his goodness. God always does what is right even if we don't like the outcome."
11. READ John 3:16-17. How is God's goodness demonstrated in Jesus Christ?

12. READ Matthew 5:44-45
- What did Jesus tell us to do in verse 44? How does this demonstrate goodness?
 - In verse 45, what action is attributed to God? In what ways are people who do not follow God still blessed by him?
13. READ Acts 10:37-38
- What was Jesus doing here?
 - Who did he heal?
 - Did he only heal people who believed in him?
 - How was Jesus able to do good?
14. DISCUSS this statement: *"God's love is his goodness in action."*
15. READ Psalm 16:2
- Who are we, or what are we apart from the Lord?
 - What do you think David means here?
16. DISCUSS this statement:
- "Our motives must be right before we call any action good. This means our central and all-influencing motive is loving God and regarding His will in all things. It means that the 'good person' is one in whom righteousness (right doing) flows from inward devotion and love toward God. From these two elements, love toward God and goodness, godly character is formed. True goodness is inseparable from godliness. Godliness is goodness' source and foundation and the sole condition on which goodness is possible."*

BACKGROUND:

King David was handpicked by God to lead the nation of Israel. He had great success in what he did. During one of the last battles David stayed home and let his commanders guide the war. During that period David had one of the great moral failures of his career when he had an affair with Bathsheba, the wife of one of his commanders. To make matters worse David arranged to have that commander killed. The result of this infidelity was a son born to David and Bathsheba. David and the nation paid dearly for this moral failure and experienced great consequence for his sin... yet God still used David to accomplish His purposes. (The entire story is recorded in 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12)

17. READ 2 Samuel 12:29-31, Acts 13:22 and 1 Samuel 16:7
- What did God say about David's heart?
 - What is God most interested in?
 - In what way can these verses help us understand that we don't have to be perfect to be good?
18. READ Psalm 51
- This was David's prayer that he wrote after his affair with Bathsheba. In what ways does this prayer reveal David's true heart?
 - How can knowing that our heart is right with God help us when we fail to do good or even when we fail God's moral standards?

19. DISCUSS:

"A good person may have failures. It is the direction of such a person's desires, their motivations, their heart which gradually determines their character, not necessarily the degree of perfection they have achieved."

Your challenge:

Determine not to allow your failures to stop your progress towards mature spiritual character. Because God knows your heart and your desire to follow him, you can always come to him, seek forgiveness and know he will forgive and restore you. Perfection is not the goal. A heart ever more oriented towards God is the goal.

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.
John Wesley*

ALL NATIONS CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. ALL NATIONS CHURCH FINANCIAL UPDATE: We have completed our first full year in our Mission Outpost! We are planning to share a financial update and budgets with you, as well as report on the 20 x 2020 mission on **Sunday morning April 2nd immediately after the service.**
2. ATTAWAPISKAT: **MAY 29-JUNE 1.** We will partner with Rev. Bill Prankard and DeBeers to feed the entire community of Attawapiskat. The cost is approximately \$6,000.00 for food airfare etc. We have been waiting, believing and praying for this opportunity. Please pray today that the Lord will create an open door for ministry here and perhaps a 20X2020 church.
3. GOOD FRIDAY OUTREACH, **April 14th, 7 p.m.**
72: THE WORLDS DARKEST HOURS is a powerful multimedia and music event designed to bring us face to face with the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and its impact on our lives and our world. This is the night to invite friends and relatives! Please pray as we are in production now. (If you'd like to help out with the dramatic or media production, sign up at the Welcome Centre. We also appreciate your signing up to help provide the dessert refreshments following the event.)
4. THE EASTER OFFERING: Easter Sunday is April 16. Please watch for your special envelope in the mail as it will be arriving soon!