

It's All in the Fruit (Part 6 - Goodness)
Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22-23. ²² 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.

I. Goodness.

A. What is goodness?

This refers to being good in nature (in contrast to being bad).

Now God is good.

Psalm 34:8. O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Psalm 106:1. Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. (1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 100:5)

Psalm 119:68. You are good and do good; Teach me Your statutes.

Matthew 5:45. so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

God is the standard of being good.

In fact all the attributes of God could be summarized in His goodness.

Exodus 18:19. ¹⁹ And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion." (Goodness is *Tov*)

Goodness is according to God's standards.

Romans 3:12. ¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE." [This is talking about how people on their own are not good according to God's standards.

Goodness is actually being like God.

3 John 1:11. ¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

Goodness is in character as well as in action.

Luke 6:45. "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

So it is being like God in character as well as in actions.

Goodness draws attention to God and not to us.

Mark 10:17-18. ¹⁷ As He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" [Then Yeshua did a very Jewish thing. He answered a question with a question.] ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

Yeshua didn't want this person to think He was good apart from God, but good because He was God.

Now some examples of people in the Scriptures with goodness.

Yeshua is the model - Acts 10:38. "*You know of* Yeshua of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and *how* **He went about doing good** and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Joseph of Aramethia - Luke 23:50. And a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, **a good and righteous man**

Barnabas - Acts 11:24. for he [Barnabas] **was a good man**, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

We can always grow in goodness.

B. Why is goodness important?

We are commanded to have goodness.

Ephesians 2:10. For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah Yeshua for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

We bring glory to the Lord when we have goodness.

Matthew 5:16. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We will be evaluated one day for our goodness.

2 Corinthians 5:10. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

C. We face some challenges to goodness in our lives.

We get tempted by our flesh that is not good.

Romans 7:18-21. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good *is* not. ¹⁹ For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. ²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. ²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

Romans 7:24-25, 8:1-2. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Yeshua the Messiah our Lord! ...**8:1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Messiah Yeshua. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Messiah Yeshua has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

We get tempted by a world that is not good.

Isaiah 5:20. Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Romans 12:2. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

We get tempted by a spiritual adversary, HaSatan, who is not good.

James 4:7-8. ⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

D. How to show forth goodness?

Depend on the Lord to make us good.

Psalms 37:3, 27. ³ Trust in the LORD and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. ... ²⁷ Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever. (Psalm 34:14). We need the LORD to produce goodness in our life.

Have the Lord control our life through His Spirit.

Trust the Lord to make us aware anytime we sin.

Do what the Scriptures tell us is good.

Micah 6:8. He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

Help the needy.

Proverbs 19:17. One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, And He will repay him for his good deed.

Give encouragement to others.

Proverbs 12:25. Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, But a good word makes it glad.

Hebrews 10:24. ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Show love even to your enemies.

Luke 6:27, 33, 35. "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ... ³³ "If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. ... ³⁵ "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil *men*.

What enemy do you need to show love toward?

Confronting others in love when they need this.

Romans 15:14. And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

Don't get discouraged but persevere in doing good.

Galatians 6:9-10. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Since God is good and has been good to us, He sent Yeshua to die for us.