

GOODNESS IS FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: "Goodness gracious," "My goodness," "Good grief," are expressions everyone uses at one time or other but just what does "goodness" mean? It is difficult to give an exact, definite definition to the word so what the word is used with helps clarify what the word is supposed to mean when spoken, for instance, "he is a good man," or that is a good buy, etc. How the word "good" is being used helps explain what is meant. "Goodness" as fruit of the Spirit and Christians are to show "goodness" at all times. Perhaps comparing "just" and "evil" will help put "goodness" into the perspective of being fruit of the Spirit.

I. "GOODNESS" COMPARED WITH "JUST" AND "EVIL"

1. "Goodness" compared with "Justice:"

- "Justice" is a quality which gives a person what is due him/her.
- "Goodness" is the quality which is out to do far more than just "justice" and is meant to give a person all that is to benefit and help that person.
- A person who sticks to his/her word to the exact letter is a person who is "good" for his/her word.
- The primary idea of "goodness" is generosity.

2. "Goodness" often is contrasted with "evil" in the New Testament:

- Matthew 20:15 shows "evil" meaning being envious and "good" is being "generous."
- Matthew 6:19-23 :
 - an "evil or bad" eye is ungenerous and begrudging - Proverbs 28:22
 - an eye that is "good" brings treasure to be laid up in heaven (generous to others) - 1 Timothy 6:17-19

3. "Goodness" defined:

- A person who displays "goodness" is not like a person who is simply trustworthy:
 - A person who is simply "just" gives only to another what he/she has earned
 - A person who is "good" is generous to give what was NOT earned.
- A person who displays "goodness" is not like a person who is evil:
 - A person who is evil begrudges everything he/she has to give.
 - A person who is "good" open hearted and open handed is generous.

II. EXAMPLES OF "GOOD" PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

1. Barnabas was a "good" man - Acts 11:24

- He was generous with what he had:
 - Acts 4:32-37
 - He gave generously to others what they didn't really deserve from him.
- He was happy to see others progress and was not jealous:
 - Acts 11:23
 - He did not begrudge what others were successful in doing.
- He was an encourager of others:
 - Acts 11:23
 - He was liberal with what he had, which is how he got his name - Acts 4:36

2. Dorcas was a "good" woman - Acts 9:36
 - She was "full of good works and charitable deeds..."
 - Even she she died, her goodness was still being felt by others.
 - Acts 9:39 - women appeared at her funeral showing garments she had made for them
 - They were praising her charity in making clothes for others (widows, etc).

CONCLUSION:

1. Every Christian who is led by the Holy Spirit will have some quality of "goodness" - Ephesians 5:8-9
2. Showing "goodness" is doing things that go beyond what is expected or required:
 - Barnabas and Dorcas are examples
 - Paul felt the same way about those in Rome - Romans 15:14
3. For the Christian to be "full of goodness" is only natural:
 - God has demonstrated His own "goodness"
 - God gave His Son to a sinful world undeserving of such grace - Titus 3:3-7
4. Christian, how good is YOUR "goodness?"
5. ***"...This is a faithful saying, and these things I want to affirm constantly that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men..."***
Titus 3:8