

# Fruit of the Spirit

---



# Fruit of the Spirit

---

- Biblical Word Study
- Old and New Testament Examples
- Jesus' Fruit
- Practical Application
- Q&A



# Galatians

## 5:19-25

---



# Galatians 5:19-21

---

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.



# Galatians 5:22-25

---

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.



Goodness...

---



# Biblical Word Study

---



# Goodness

---

- *Agathōsúnē*



# Goodness

---

- *Agathōsúnē*
  - uprightness of heart & life, virtuous
  - goodness & kindness
  - only used in bible & LXX
  - adds the “ness” suffix to well-known Greek word:  
*agathós*



# Goodness

---

- *Agathós*

- good (in a moral sense)
- of good constitution or nature
- useful, pleasant, agreeable
- excellent, distinguished, upright, honorable
- brave, valiant
- e.g.: “he was a ‘good’ man”



# Goodness

---

- *Agathós*

- In classical Greek, *agathós* was considered the “ideal good.” It represented the character quality of ideal personal behavior.
- Plato saw *agathós* as being the ultimate source of reality from which all virtue was born.



# Goodness

---

- *Agathós*

- Aristotle connected the idea of *agathós* (good) to excellence and what it looked like to have a flourishing life.
- He saw two kinds of excellence: intellectual & moral. *Agathós* represented moral excellence revealed by character and ethical behavior.



# Goodness

---

- *Agathós*

- Aristotle said that *agathós* was not something in our natural disposition but had to be cultivated through consistent practice in order to become habit.
- He said a virtuous person makes “good” (*agathós*) choices because they have developed right habits.



# Goodness

---

- *Agathōsúnē (goodness): to the believer*
  - Goodness is a characteristic of God intended to be reproduced by the Holy Spirit in God's people.
  - Goodness is not humanly-defined nor humanly-measured. God's people are to define & measure *goodness* not according worldly standards, but against God Himself.
  - God is Good, and His goodness is seen in His holiness, righteousness, and moral perfection, and is also seen in His interaction with humanity in the form of His mercy, kindness, gentleness, & patience which lead us to seek Him and His salvation.



# Goodness

---

## ▪ *Agathōsúnē*

- Appears only 4 times in the NT, all from Paul (*agathós* appears ~100x!) and represents both a Divine Attribute and a Christian Virtue.
- God's character and defining of His own Self — not subjective according to the standards of humanity.
- Believers should desire 'goodness' because we desire God. And, we should express 'goodness' because we desire to express God (and His attributes) to those Who do not know Him.



# Goodness

---

- God's *agathōsúnē* - His self-determined character which defines 'good' against His moral perfection (holiness, righteousness), but is also displayed in His faithfulness, mercy, & patient love with humanity.
  - God's goodness balances that He is both Just & Merciful.
  - God's goodness is demonstrated in Jesus.
- Human *agathōsúnē* - The Spirit-led reflection of God's character demonstrated through the pursuit of holiness for ourselves & mercy toward others.



# Goodness

---

- *Agathōsúnē*

- Source – Character of God; Christ in us
- Expression – Moral uprightness in our character, thought, & deed; lives of holiness & helpfulness to other believers in pursuing holiness; and patient mercy to the lost.
- Goal – To demonstrate & reveal God's goodness



# Old and New Testament Examples

---



# Old Testament

---

- The Hebrew equivalent of *agathōsúnē* is *Tov*.
- It expresses the benevolent aspect of God's covenant love — His faithful goodness toward His people.
- In the biblical worldview, "goodness" is not abstract; it is relational and purposeful—what serves life, order, and covenant faithfulness is *tov*



# Genesis 1

---

And God saw that it was good.



# Genesis 50:20

---

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.



# Psalm 34:8

---

Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.



# NT-*Agathós*-Matthew 19 & Luke 18

---

<sup>16</sup> Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what *good* thing must I do to get eternal life?"

<sup>17</sup> "Why do you ask me about what is *good*?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is *good*..."

- - -

<sup>18</sup> A certain ruler asked him, "*Good* teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup> "Why do you call me *good*?" Jesus answered. "No one is *good*—except God alone.



## - *Agathós* - Romans 7

---

<sup>18</sup> For I know that *good* itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is *good*, but I cannot carry it out.



## -*Agathós*- Luke 8

---

<sup>8</sup> "Still other seed fell on *good* soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."



# -*Agathós*- Matthew 7

---

<sup>9</sup> “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give *good* gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give *good* gifts to those who ask him! <sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.



# -*Agathós*- Matthew 7

---

<sup>15</sup> “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

<sup>16</sup> By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise, every *good* tree bears *good* fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A *good* tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear *good* fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear *good* fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.



## -*Agathós*- Hebrews 13

---

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything *good* for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



# Romans 15

---

<sup>14</sup> I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of *goodness*, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.



# Ephesians 5

---

- <sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people... <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.  
<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.  
<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all *goodness*, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.



# 2 Thessalonians 1

---

<sup>11</sup> With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for *goodness* and your every deed prompted by faith. <sup>12</sup> We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.



# Jesus' Fruit

---



# Jesus As Goodness

---

- In Jesus, God's *Agathōsúnē* is made incarnate. Jesus literally is the goodness of God: His holiness & moral perfection as well as His mercy, grace, & compassion.
- Jesus allows God's full goodness to be satisfied by both: taking the just penalty of God's wrath and also in pouring out the merciful grace of God's love



# Jesus As Goodness

---

- Luke 18:18

19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered.

“No one is good—except God alone.



# Jesus As Goodness

---

- Goodness in healing the sick & raising the dead
- Goodness in feeding the hungry
- Goodness in talking to & touching the outcasts
- Goodness in compassion for the hurting - the 'sheep without a shepherd'
- Goodness in being hard on the 'religious' and gentle on the lost
- Goodness in offering forgiveness to those who've sinned
- Goodness on the cross



# Practical Application

---



# Practical Application

---

- Seek to know 'the Good One.' – Luke 18.
- Practice holiness & goodness not 'earn' eternal life, but because eternal life has been graced upon us in Christ
- Micah 6:8 - <sup>8</sup>He has shown you, O man, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act *justly* and to love *mercy*  
and to *walk humbly* with your God.



# Practical Application

---

- Goodness as an act of worship
  - Eph 5:10 - <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord.
- Serve and have the heart of a Servant
  - Mark 10: <sup>43</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



# Practical Application

---

- *W D J D (what did Jesus do?)*

- Matthew 25

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'



Break

---



Faithfulness...

---



# Biblical Word Study

---



# Faithfulness

---

- *Pístis*



# Faithfulness

---

- *Pístis*

- Fidelity or faithfulness
- A conviction of the truth
- A belief in something
- Includes an understanding of trust that has been placed
- The character of one who can be relied on



# Faithfulness

---

## ▪ *Pístis*

- In classical Greek, *pístis* was understood to mean loyalty, confidence, and a sense of allegiance.
- *Pístis* was also the name of a goddess who personified good faith, trust, & reliability.
- Plato saw *pístis* as an inferior and unstable form of belief, and instead preferred reason.



# Faithfulness

---

- *Pístis*:

- Plato didn't use *pístis* in relation to belief in the gods, but rather used words that connotated "law" or "custom." – *tradition...*
- Aristotle saw *pístis* as being central to rhetoric & argument. *Pístis* is the conviction that happens when an audience is won over by logical, persuasive reasoning. – *proof..*



# Faithfulness

---

- *Pístis: to the believer:*
  - Faith & Belief in the Person & character of God
  - Specific belief in the saving & redeeming work of Jesus Christ on the cross for the atonement of ones personal, individual sin
  - Specific belief in the justifying & life-giving work of Jesus' resurrection to demonstrate His power over sin & death
  - A quality of fidelity, loyalty, & availability to the Lord



# Faithfulness

---

## ▪ *Pístis*:

- Appears ~245 times in the NT! It mostly refers to the noun of belief & faith in God – *to have faith*
- It is also Divine Attribute and a Christian Virtue.
- Faithful is something that God Himself is to humanity.
- Believers are invited to have 'faith,' to be 'faithful,' and to display 'faithfulness.'



# Faithfulness

---

## ▪ *Pístis*

- God's *pístis* – Seen in His never-failing love and His presence (even when not felt, or spurned).
- Human *pístis* – God's grace to enable us to believe, to enable us to trust, enable us to persevere, and enable us to be useful.



# Faithfulness

---

- *Pístis*

- Source – God's Faithfulness to us, and in us
- Expression – Faith in Jesus Christ, and living lives that demonstrate that belief (James 2)
- Goal – To respond to God's faithfulness by reminding ourselves of the truth of the gospel, being useful to the Kingdom, and showing those around us that there is something and Someone greater to live for



# Old and New Testament Examples

---



# Old Testament

---

- *'ěmûwnâh*
  - firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness
- *'âman*
  - to support, confirm, be faithful, uphold, nourish
  - to be established, be carried, make firm
  - to stand firm, to trust, to be certain, to believe in
- *'âmên*
  - verily, truly, amen, so be it



# Old Testament

---

- God's Faithfulness is:
  - dependable, steadfast, firm, upholding, nurturing
- Human Faithfulness is:
  - trusting, believing, certain, dependable/reliable



# Psalms 40

---

<sup>9</sup> I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;  
I do not seal my lips, LORD,  
as you know.

<sup>10</sup> I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;  
I speak of your *faithfulness* and your saving help.  
I do not conceal your love and your *faithfulness*  
from the great assembly.



# Psalms 89 (of David's Line)

---

<sup>32</sup> I will punish their sin with the rod,  
their iniquity with flogging;

<sup>33</sup> but I will not take my love from him,  
nor will I ever betray my *faithfulness*.

<sup>34</sup> I will not violate my covenant  
or alter what my lips have uttered.



# Psalms 98

---

<sup>2</sup> The LORD has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the  
nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his love  
and his *faithfulness* to Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.



# Psalm 119

---

<sup>75</sup> I know, LORD, that your laws are righteous,  
and that in *faithfulness* you have afflicted me.



# Lamentations 3

---

<sup>22</sup> Because of the LORD's great love we  
are not consumed,  
for his compassions never fail.  
<sup>23</sup> They are new every morning;  
great is your *faithfulness*.



# Hosea 3

---

<sup>19</sup> I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you in righteousness and  
justice,  
in love and compassion.

<sup>20</sup> I will betroth you in *faithfulness*,  
and you will acknowledge the LORD.



# Deuteronomy 32

---

<sup>4</sup> He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.

A *faithful* God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he.



# 1 Samuel 26

---

- <sup>23</sup> The LORD rewards everyone for their righteousness and *faithfulness*.  
The LORD delivered you into my hands today, but I would not lay a hand on the LORD's anointed.



## 2 Chronicles 31

---

<sup>12</sup> Then they *faithfully* brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts. Konaniah, a Levite, was the overseer in charge of these things, and his brother Shimei was next in rank...

<sup>18</sup> They included all the little ones, the wives, and the sons and daughters of the whole community listed in these genealogical records. For they were *faithful* in consecrating themselves.



## 2 Chronicles 34

---

<sup>12</sup> The workers labored *faithfully*. Over them to direct them were Jahath and Obadiah, Levites descended from Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, descended from Kohath. The Levites—all who were skilled in playing musical instruments—<sup>13</sup> had charge of the laborers and supervised all the workers from job to job. Some of the Levites were secretaries, scribes and gatekeepers.



# NT: 1 John 1

---

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is *faithful* and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



# 1 Thessalonians 5

---

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is *faithful*, and he will do it.



# Romans 3

---

<sup>3</sup> What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the *faithfulness* of God? <sup>4</sup> By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar...



# Hebrews 11

---

<sup>3</sup> Now *faith* is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.



*...Living by faith*

---

....have the assurance of faith, dwell in faith,  
endure in faith, add to your faith...

- Faithfulness...



# Matthew 24

---

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the *faithful* and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.



# Matthew 25

---

<sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and *faithful* servant! You have been *faithful* with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’



# James 2

---

<sup>17</sup> In the same way, *faith* by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> ...Show me your *faith* without deeds, and I will show you my *faith* by my deeds. <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.



# Jesus' Fruit

---



# Jesus As Faithfulness

---

- Jesus demonstrates *pístis* in everything He did. To humanity, He was the very Faithfulness of God – the fulfillment of God's promised covenant: *I will be your God, and you will be My people.*
- Jesus is the example of what Faithfulness to the Father looks like.



# Jesus As Faithfulness

---

## ■ Hebrews 3

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. <sup>2</sup> He was *faithful* to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was *faithful* in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. <sup>5</sup> "Moses was *faithful* as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. <sup>6</sup> But Christ is *faithful* as the Son *over God's house*. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.



# Jesus As Faithfulness

---

- Faithful in obedience – *will of the Father; did not come to be served*
- Faithful in allegiance – *away from me Satan*
- Faithful in mission – *the Son of Man came to seek & save the lost*
- Faithful in availability – *here I am, it is written about me*
- Faithful in belief – *storms, sickness, death – mountains*
- Faithful in preaching – *let's go to the next town – that's why I came*
- Faithful in surrender & sacrifice – *not my will, but Yours be done*



# Practical Application

---



# Practical Application

---

- Have *Pístis*

- Believe:

- There is a Creator God of the Universe
    - That we (though made in His image) are born in sin
    - That sin must be paid for – and we can't do it
    - That God is loving, merciful, & gracious and paid that debt through Christ's death & resurrection



# Practical Application

---

- Walk in *Pístis*

- Trust:

- That God cares for you and desires to bring you closer to Him
    - That the Spirit is with you and in you (not alone)
    - That you've been empowered & equipped for work
    - That you've been given specific work to do



# Practical Application

---

- Have the character of *Pístis*
  - Loyal Availability:
    - Choose Christ & His Kingdom in your priorities
    - Take the role of a servant (*not one to be served*)
    - Look for need: *Here am I, send me*
    - Partner in the mission (*declaring the gospel, helping the hurting, saving the lost, using your gifts, and making disciples*)



Q&A

---