

# Fruit Of The Spirit

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## Goodness

(Ro 15:14)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fruit Of The Spirit."
  - a. So far we have looked at five different characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit.
    - i. We have looked at love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness.
  - b. Today we are going to examine another of these characteristics "Goodness."
3. What is goodness here in our text?
  - a. This is the Greek word "ἀγαθωσύνη" or "aga-thos-yne."
    - i. It is found four times in four different verses.
      1. **Ro 15:14; Ga 5:22; Ep 5:9; II Th 1:11**
    - ii. As we can see it is not a prolific listing.
      1. It is translated either as goodness or good in just about every translation I looked at.
      2. It was translated generosity once in the RSV.
  - b. This word means...
    - i. "uprightness of heart and life" (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti. New York: Harper & Brothers.)
    - ii. "The perpetual desire and sincere study, not only to abstain from every appearance of evil, but to do good to the bodies and souls of men to the utmost of our ability. But all this must spring from a good heart—a heart purified by the Spirit of God; and then, the tree being made good, the fruit must be good also." (from Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1996, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
    - iii. "Here the word seems to be used in the sense of beneficence, or a disposition to do good to others. The sense is, that a Christian must be a good man." (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
    - iv. "...a very wide description of human goodness, apparently in the sense of active benevolence." (from The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
      1. All of that was said to show that we are dealing with a generalization of the term aimed at others thus the focus on benevolence.
        - a. In other words we are "good" to "others."
4. So as you can see the word is translated as it should be which is goodness.
  - a. That demands a reality we find in our first point there is good and evil.

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## I. Good Vs Evil

- A. Good and evil will always clash against each other
  - 1. Take the parable of the "Laborers in the Vineyard."
    - i. **Mt 20:1-15 READ**
    - ii. Here you have a clash between the master & some of his workers.
      - a. The master was good taking care of his neighbors, giving them what they agreed to.
      - b. The ones that worked all day were evil at the end of the day.
        - 1. They became jealous, wanting more not being benevolent but rather greedy.
  - 2. We must guard ourselves against such things understanding the difference between good and evil and fight for good over evil.
    - i. **Mt 6:19-23** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

## II. How Does Goodness Differ From Righteousness?

- A. Goodness differs from righteousness in person
  - 1. What I mean is righteousness is something we do for ourselves.
    - i. We keep "ourselves..."
      - a. Pure, upright, holy, kind...
  - 2. Goodness is something we do for others.
    - i. We are willing to do whatever we can for our neighbor.
      - a. Notice some examples here.
- B. The righteous man and good man
  - 1. **Ro 15:7** "For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die"
  - 2. The Jews broke down the moral character of men into four classes.
    - i. "First, those who say, "what is mine, is my own; and what is thine, is thy own? These may be considered the just, who render to every man his due; or rather, they who neither give nor take." (from Adam Clarke's Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1996, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
    - ii. "The second class is made up of those who say, "what is mine, is thine; and what is thine, is mine? These are they who accommodate each other, who borrow and lend." (Ibid)
    - iii. "The third class is composed of those who say, "What is mine, is thine; and what is thine, let it be thine." These are the pious, or good, who give up all for the benefit of their neighbour." (Ibid)

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- iv. "The fourth class are those who say, "What is thine, is mine; and what is thine, shall be mine." These are the impious, who take all, and give nothing. Now, for one of the first class, who would die? There is nothing amiable in his life or conduct that would so endear him to any man, as to induce him to risk his life to save such a person." (Ibid)
- 3. So Paul says a good person is one that will do anything they can for their neighbor.
  - i. We see this in the...
    - a. Widow from Zarephath.
      - 1. **I Ki 17:8-16**
      - 2. She made the last of her food for Elijah.
    - b. Widow at the temple.
      - 1. **Lk 21:1-4**
      - 2. She gave all that she had two mites.
    - c. The Macedonians
      - 1. **II Co 8:1-4**
      - 2. They gave "until it hurt"
  - 4. These were not acts of righteousness but rather goodness.

### III. God Is Pure Goodness

- A. God does not ever "seem" to be good but instead is not
  - 1. He always was, is, and will be good.
    - i. **He 13:8** "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."
  - 2. On the other hand we have an example of one that seemed good but wasn't the "rich young ruler."
    - i. Here we have a man that had "kept" much of the law since his youth.
      - a. **Mt 19:18-20** "He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, 19 Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 20 The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?""
    - ii. Jesus knowing the man's heart called him on his "goodness" of loving his neighbor as himself."
      - a. **Mt 19:21-22** "Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."
    - iii. This man appeared good and righteous but in the end was neither.
- B. However our God is always both righteous and good
  - 1. He does good to all men.
    - i. **Ac 14:17** "Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

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2. In fact His gifts are indescribably good.
  - i. **II Co 9:15** "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (NKJV)

### IV. We Need To Be Good People Of God

- A. If our God is good to us we too are to be good to others
  1. We need to be "encouragers" to others like Barnabas.
  2. We need to be "giving" to others like Dorcas.
  3. We need to be in service to others like Phoebe.
- B. Brethren we need to be "good" people "of" God

### CONCLUSION

1. Whether we are good to others like Barnabas or like Dorcas who show acts of charity we need to display the characteristic of goodness and grow in it.
  - a. A random one time act of being good to others is not growing in goodness.
2. Question: Are you "good" to others? Do you love your neighbor as yourself?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not make that right now. Don't delay, repent and correct it before it is too late.
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
    - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
    - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
    - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
    - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:**