

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT 9-WEEK STUDY

April 29: Goodness

TEXT: Galatians 5:22-23

INTRO: When Paul begins to talk about the fruit of the Spirit, "Fruit," here, means "beneficial results," or the good things that come from the Spirit's indwelling. Goodness as a fruit of the Spirit has got to be something different than what the world would define as goodness. Make no mistake, the world does good things from time to time. Unsaved people give blood, volunteer when there is a need, stop and help someone with a flat tire, they donate money, etc. I think the difference might lie in the motivation to do good things. People in tune with the Spirit of God are good people. Expressions of goodness are as varied as the Spirit is creative.

THE SIXTH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS GOODNESS

TEXT: Psalm 25:6-8; Psalm 107:1; Romans 2:4; Matthew 5:16; Galatians 6:9-10; Romans 12:21; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 10:24; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 20:6

DEFINITIONS: (Listen to the video to help you fill in the blanks.)

- The Greek word is *agathosune* and is defined as "_____ of heart and life."
Agathosune is goodness for the _____ of others, not goodness simply for the sake of being virtuous.
- Virtue _____ and _____ at every point.
- Zealous activity in doing good. Gentleness is more _____. Gentleness is the disposition, goodness is the outward _____. It turns wishes into actions.
- To work for the benefit of others in _____ and constructive ways.

DISCUSSION: (Look up the verses given and answer the questions/discuss)

- Why is it important to understand and meditate on God's goodness? (Psalm 25:6-8; 107:1)
- How can our goodness draw other people to know salvation in Jesus Christ? (Rom. 2:4; Matt. 5:16)
- Should we do good because we are expecting something good in return? Is the Bible saying we will always reap if we do good? (Galatians 6:9-10)
- Why do you think God wants us to especially do good to fellow Christians? (Gal. 6:10)
- What should be our response to a person (spouse, church member, co-worker) who mistreats us according to Romans 12:21? What does this look like?
- What role does God's grace and our appreciation of our salvation play in us being "zealous of good works?" (Titus 2:11-14)
- How can our friendships and associations with certain people affect our desire to show goodness? (Hebrews 10:24; 1 Cor. 15:33)
- How would you say you or our church is doing in "provoking" people to good works? (Heb. 10:24)
- What is the correlation in Proverbs 20:6 between being good and being faithful?

DECISION:

- If we are to be walking billboards for God and His goodness, then we need to think very carefully about our actions, thoughts and speech. How do we make sure we are demonstrating God's goodness?
- Pray for discernment to tell the difference between fake goodness that wants attention and faithful goodness that does it because it is what a Christian does.

Take some time to pray over the Wednesday prayer sheet attached to the Realm post.