

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God

Lesson 27 - The Attributes of God: Goodness

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God is Good

- God's goodness is that He is the perfect sum, source, and standard of that which is wholesome (conducive to well-being), virtuous, beneficial, and beautiful. - MacArthur, pg. 181
- The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval. - Grudem, pg. 197
- God does not do something because it is good, it is good because God does it.
- God is the absolute good and as such He cannot be pleased with or approve of anything short of absolute perfection. This means ultimately that He can and will be pleased only with Himself. Consequently, when He loves His creatures, He loves them with a chief regard to Himself.
- God alone determines what (and who) is worthy of approval, because no one else's determination matters!

God is Good

- God's being and actions, based upon His perfect goodness, are worthy of His own approval.
- Luke 18:19 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.
- In fact, outside of God there is no one who is or does good.
- Psalm 14:2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. 3 They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.
- Matt. 5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

God is Good

- 1 Chron. 16:34 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
- Psalm 106:1 Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.
- Psalm 100:5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.
- Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!
- Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

God is Good

- All God does is worthy of approval.
- Genesis 1:31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
- God is good and He does good.
- Psalm 119:68 You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes.
- God is the source of all good in the world.
- James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.
- Psa. 145:9 The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

God is Good

- God withholds no good things from His children.
- Psa. 84:11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- God works everything for our good.
- Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.
- God is the highest good (*Lat. summum bonum*) and as such God is good to all.
- Psa. 145:9 The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

God is Good

- To imitate this attribute, we should strive to do good, that is, to do that of which He approves.
- Gal. 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- Luke 6:27 “But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

God is Good

- He has prepared good works for us to walk in (to do).
- Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- His Word equips us for every good work.
- 2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
- God should be the ultimate good we seek.
- Psalm 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. 26 My flesh and my heart fail; but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

God is Good

- God's goodness, while a "separate" attribute, is also seen in other attributes.
- God's mercy is His goodness towards those in distress.
- God's grace is His goodness towards those who deserve punishment.
- God's patience is His goodness towards those who continue to sin.

**God is good all the time.
All the time, God is good.
Give Him thanks.**