

INTRODUCTION

1. We are looking again this morning at Galatians 5:22, so please take God's Word and turn with me to Galatians chapter 5.
2. This is our 20th message in our series "Bad and Good Habits."
3. We have already considered "bad habits" and now we are looking at "good habits."
4. Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23

gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

5. Lenny Skutnik, twenty-eight, watched while people in a helicopter tried to rescue a stewardess struggling to survive an airplane crash in Washington, D. C. Twice she slipped from the rope dropped to her and fell back into the icy Potomac. Seeing that her strength was gone, Skutnik shed his coat and boots, jumped into the water, and swam thirty yards to her rescue. Questioned by the press afterward about his motivation, Skutnik replied: "I had been there all that time and nobody was getting in the water.... It's something I never thought I would do, but in looking back, I guess I did it because I didn't think about it. Somebody had to go in the

water.”¹

6. A good man doing good deeds is one whose goodness comes from God.
7. All of the virtues that I read in Galatians 5:22-23 are true of God and that’s why when we are yielded to the Spirit God is manifested or made visible in our lives.
8. God is love - 1 John 4:8 (NASB) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
9. God is joy - Romans 14:17 (NASB) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

¹ Jones, G. Curtis. 1000 Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1986. Print.

10. God is peace - 1 Corinthians 14:33
(NASB) for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

11. God is patient - 2 Peter 3:9 (NASB) The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

12. God is kind - Titus 3:4-5 (NASB) But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

13. Looking back to Galatians 5:22, we see that the next virtue is “goodness.”

LESSON

I. God is Good

The Goodness of God is “a perfection of his character which he exercises towards his creatures according to their various circumstances and relations (Ps. 145:8, 9; 103:8; 1 John 4:8). Viewed generally, it is benevolence; as exercised with respect to the miseries of his creatures it is mercy, pity, compassion, and in the case of impenitent sinners, long-suffering patience; as exercised in communicating favour on the unworthy it is grace.”²

² Easton, M. G. [Easton's Bible dictionary](#) 1893 : n. pag. Print.

A. He is Good to Israel and to All Those Who Are Pure in Heart

1. Psalms 73:1 (NASB) Surely God is good to Israel, To those who are pure in heart!
2. Psalms 25:8 (NASB) Good and upright is the Lord.

B. Because He is Good He Possesses Goodness

1. Exodus 33:18-23 (NASB) Then Moses said, "I pray You, show me Your glory!" 19 And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be

gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion.”

20 But He said, “You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live!” 21 Then the Lord said, “Behold, there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; 22 and it will come about, while My glory is passing by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.”

2. Psalms 31:19 (NASB) How great is Your goodness, which You have stored up for those who fear You, which You have wrought for those who take refuge in You, before the

sons of men!

3. Jesus said in John 10:11 (NASB) I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

II. What is Goodness in Galatians 5:22?

- A. Goodness is from agathosunē (ἀγαθοσυνη)
- B. The word focus' on two things: (1) the “quality in a man who is ruled by and aims at what is good, namely, the quality of moral worth.”³
 1. Paul uses it this way in Romans 15:14 (NASB) of the Roman

³ Wuest, Kenneth S. Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997. Print.

believers when he says, And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

2. It's used in 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NASB) as a prayer request by Paul for the Thessalonians desire for goodness to be fulfilled when it says To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God

and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It's also used not only as a moral quality but as...

C. The act of generous giving, with the implication of its relationship to goodness—'to be generous, generosity.

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1. So the sense is "to be generous."

2. But we also need to understand how it differs from kindness:

3. Spiros Zodhiates says, "the Eng. word includes several pleasing qualities whereas the Gr. word refers to one particular quality. It is more

⁴ Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene Albert Nida. Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains 1996 : 569. Print.

than chrēstótēs (5544), gentleness, kindness, a mellowing of character. It is character energized, expressing itself in agathón (18), benevolence, active good. There is more activity in agathōsúnē than in chrēstótēs. Agathōsúnē does not spare sharpness and rebuke to cause good (agathón) in others. A person may display his agathōsúnē, his zeal for goodness and truth, in rebuking, correcting, or chastising. Christ's righteous indignation in the temple (Matt. 21:13) showed His agathōsúnē, goodness, but not His chrēstótēs, gentleness.”⁵

4. Matthew 21:12-13 (NASB) And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and

⁵ Zodhiates, Spiros. [The complete word study dictionary: New Testament](#) 2000 : n. pag. Print.

selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. 13 And He *said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer’; but you are making it a robbers’ den.”

5. Here’s how it is used with the idea of being good and showing goodness:
6. Joseph was such a righteous and good man. When he learned that Mary was pregnant but did not yet know it was by the Holy Spirit, “being a righteous man” he could not bring himself to marry her, assuming she had been unfaithful. But being also a good man, he could not bear the thought of disgracing his beloved

Mary and therefore “desired to put her away secretly” (Matt. 1:19).

7. David had a deep understanding of God’s goodness, as he repeatedly reveals in his psalms. “Surely goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever,” he rejoiced (Ps. 23:6).
8. He confessed that he would, in fact, “have despaired unless [he] had believed that [he] would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Ps. 27:13).

III. Believers Must Be Good and Generous

A. We Must Be Good

Easton says, “Goodness in man is not a mere passive quality, but the deliberate preference of right to wrong, the firm and persistent resistance of all moral evil, and the choosing and following of all moral good.”⁶

B. We Must Do Good

Later in the letter Paul exhorts, “While we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith” (Gal. 6:10).

C. We Must Desire Goodness

“To this end also we pray for you always,” he wrote to the Thessalonians,

⁶ Ibid., Easton

“that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the word of faith with power” (2 Thess. 1:11).

D. We Must Learn from the Good Samaritan

1. John 4:9 (NASB) Therefore the Samaritan woman *said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)
2. Luke 10:25-37 (NASB) And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 And He said to him, “What is written in the Law?

How does it read to you?” 27 And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” 28 And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” 29 But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” 30 Jesus replied and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. 31 And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32 Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and

saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, 34 and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' 36 Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" 37 And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said

to him, “Go and do the same.”

3. Proverbs 27:10 (NASB) Do not forsake your own friend or your father’s friend, and do not go to your brother’s house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.

CONCLUSION

1. Does goodness or generosity describe you this morning?
2. Do you have this quality that is ruled by and aimed at what is good?
3. This comes from God.

4. When you are yielded to the Holy Spirit, He produces this in your life.
5. Of course, you must know Jesus to have the Spirit and these qualities.
6. To know Jesus you must first come to Him in humility of heart believing confessing and repenting of your sin.
7. I invite you to do that right now as we pray.
8. Let's pray.