

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Goodness

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Scripture: **Romans 12:9**

Series: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

OVERVIEW

The concept of goodness as both a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a reflection of God's character presents a framework for understanding moral conduct and spiritual growth. We, as believers, acknowledge the struggle in embodying goodness due to humanity's fallen nature. Yet, we are empowered to pursue goodness as commanded in passages like Romans 12:9, recognizing that goodness finds its ultimate source in God. This understanding challenges our self-reliance and pride, leading us to depend fully on Christ and to cultivate a deeper relationship with Him.

Goodness will not flourish in us until we first find it in God.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Psalm 145:9; Psalm 31:19; Psalm 23; Nahum 1:7; Psalm 34; Psalm 119:68; Genesis 1; Romans 3:10-12; Luke 18:19; Romans 5:7; Proverbs 12:2; Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 5:16; Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:21; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; Hebrews 10:24; Titus 2:14, Galatians 5:22-23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does understanding goodness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit align with the sufficiency of Scripture for understanding God's nature and our moral duties? How does recognizing goodness as an attribute of God challenge our cultural understanding of goodness and morality? How does this inform our Christian worldview and ethical decision making?
2. How does understanding God's sovereignty influence our understanding of goodness? How does seeing His sovereignty impact pursuit and expression of goodness in our lives?
3. How does the doctrine of total depravity affect our ability to embody goodness? How does God's grace enable us to overcome this struggle? How do passages like Romans 12:9, which command believers to "abhor what is evil" and "cling to what is good," inform our understanding of goodness in the Christian life? How does this command reflect God's character and our calling to reflect Him in our actions?
4. How does the doctrine of justification by faith alone intersect with our understanding of goodness? How does the imputed righteousness of Christ enable us to pursue and embody goodness in our lives? How does the pursuit of goodness intersect with the doctrine of sanctification? How does the Holy Spirit work in believers to produce the fruit of goodness, and what role do spiritual disciplines play in this process?
5. What steps can we take to cultivate a deeper understanding of God's goodness and allow it to manifest more fully in our lives? How can we encourage and challenge one another?