



Galatians 5:23

Introduction

“God is good, but without Him we are not”

I. God is Good

God is the source of all good and goodness, and **He alone defines what is good.**

*“And he said, **‘I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.**” Exodus 33:19*

*“Give thanks to the Lord, **for he is good**, for his steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 136:1*

*“**The Lord is good**, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him...” Nahum 1:7*

*“**You are good and do good**; teach me your statutes.” Psalm 119:68*

God is good and God does good. God can use evil to bring about His good purposes.
*“As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it for good...**” Genesis 50:20*

Jesus even describes God in this way: (Rich Young Ruler)
*“Why do you ask me about what is good? There is **only one who is good**” Matt. 19:17*

Doubting God’s goodness is as old as Adam and Eve:
“God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:5

Circumstances aren’t the barometer of God’s love and goodness—the cross is.

“For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” Romans 5:7, 8

II. Spirit-empowered Goodness

The Apostle Paul in Galatians 5 has kindness and goodness together. They are similar yet different. We looked at kindness last week and at times some of the words could be changed to goodness. But they are distinct, goodness has an element of rebuke and discipline to it, where kindness can only help.

Agathosune – It means *‘uprightness of heart and life.’* **So goodness is both internal and external.**

“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” Luke 6:43-45

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

“Hate what is evil, cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9

“Live a life worth of the Lord and please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work.” Colossians 1:10

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

“And let us not grow weary of doing good...so then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are in the household of faith.” Gal 6:9,10

“So that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.” Titus 3:8

“Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good.” Titus 3:14

III. Conclusion

A reason why Paul puts a strong emphasis on Christians being people who do good works, is because they reflect the gospel. When Paul teaches Romans 12:21, which says, *“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”* he is echoing what God did at the cross.

The cross is the ultimate expression of the goodness of God.