

“Goodness”

Series: Nurturing Our Walk in the Spirit

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The Holy Spirit is working non-stop within you to become a fully-formed Christian (little Christ). Paul describes 9 human manifestations of human behavior that together form what he terms: FRUIT.

Today, we will consider GOODNESS.

The Fruit of Goodness is a demonstration of _____.

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵A *good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart*, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

Luke 6:43-45

Can I really “_____” Good?

Many Christ-followers have been taught that they can never “BE” good. This confusion is easy to resolve and was apparently a struggle that existed back in the 1st Century Church also!

Paul deals with this dilemma in 2 succinct teachings:

“For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹**not by works, so that no one can boast.** ¹⁰**For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,** which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵*he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,* ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so ***that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.*** These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.” Titus 3:4-8

2 Essential Points:

**We’re not SAVED by Good Works,
We’re Saved in order to do Good Works!**

Consider: The _____ of Goodness

“Do not be overcome by evil, but ***overcome evil with good.***” Romans 12:21

Devoting ourselves to GOODNESS:

- provides proof the Spirit of the Living God is in us!
- shows we are living & trusting in the power of the Cross & Resurrection and not secular power!
- applies the Victory of the Cross & Resurrection over all we encounter that is evil now: injustice, poverty, chains, etc.
- makes the conscious choice to do what is GOOD & RIGHT, let God sort out the consequences!

Conclusion: Remember the Cross!



What do you see when you see the Cross?