

The Fruit of the Spirit studies

Goodness & Faithfulness



Key verse: Galatians 5:25-26.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.



Big Idea: Seeing the fruit of the Spirit as Christian 'performance indicators' gives us a tangible way of assessing our progress in Christian living.

Today's focus is on two additional aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, goodness and faithfulness.

Kick Off

What comes to mind when someone or something is described as being good?

STUDY

Read Galatians 5:16-26.

In Greek, the word translated as 'goodness' is '*agathosune*' which can also mean intrinsic goodness or moral excellence. Interestingly, '*agathosune*' only appears 4 times in the New Testament. Some scholars have determined that this word only found in the Bible and is not present in secular Greek.

The first time that we come across the word 'good' in the Bible is in Genesis 1:4 when God made light and saw that it was good (Read Genesis 1:1-4).

Before the fall, creation reflected God's glory in its 'goodness'. The sin of Adam and Eve brought corruption into the world and corrupted the 'goodness' of creation.

1. What do we mean when we say that God is good?
2. Jesus came into the world to redeem creation. Read Luke 4:1-13 (the temptation of Jesus), John 8:1-11 (testing of Jesus), John 2:13-17 (cleansing of the temple), and John 15:12-17 (sacrificial love).
 - How do you see 'goodness' in the life of Jesus in these passages?

THINK AND APPLY

- How could you be more like Jesus? List 3 or more ways that you could exhibit more 'goodness' in your daily life (work, home, church). Discuss one or more of these with a person next to you.

Faithfulness

Can you think of some things that you are persuaded about but do not personally have much evidence for?

In Galatians 5:22, faithfulness is the seventh aspect of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Greek word used here is "*pistis*" which can be translated as faith – to be persuaded, come to trust.

1. From this passage, where do we understand faith to come from (and not come from)? (Gal. 5:16)

The main reason why Paul is writing to the Galatians is because the Galatians were adding trust in rules on to faith in Christ as the means for approval (Gal. 1:6-7, 1:15-16). By this, works would dictate how they lived and identify approval with God, or so they thought.

2. Read Gal. 2:19-20. In verse 19 Paul's states that he died to the law (rules) so that he could live to God.

- As a Christian, what is Paul's motivation to live for God?

THINK AND APPLY

- How might you respond today to Jesus' sacrificial love for you?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



For next week
Read
Matthew 5:1-16