



# World Christian Fellowship

[www.wcflondon.com](http://www.wcflondon.com)  
[wcflondon@gmail.com](mailto:wcflondon@gmail.com)

## Galatians

### Lesson 56 – Fruit of the Spirit

#### Goodness

**Galatians 5:22-23**, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

The terms, "good," goodly," and "goodness" are found throughout the Bible.

In Genesis 1, the term "good" is found in verses 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31 where God said that what He had created was "very good!"

In the general use of these terms in the Old Testament, they are indicating the following:

1. That which possesses desirable qualities, beneficial qualities, or agreeable qualities.  
(**Genesis 2:9, Numbers 10:29**).
2. Serviceable, adequate, sufficient.  
(**Genesis 1:4; 2:8**).

3. Something full or complete.  
(**Genesis 15:15; 30:20; 1 Samuel 25:3**).
4. Not blemished, fair, honorable.  
(**Genesis 18:7; 27:9; 1 Samuel 2:24; 2 Samuel 11:2**).
5. That which is pleasure giving.  
(**1 Kings. 8:66; Esther 5:9**).
6. That which is kind and Benevolent.  
(**1 Samuel 25:15; 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalms 73:1**).
7. Moral excellence or piety.  
(**Genesis 3:22; Deuteronomy 6:18; Psalms 37:27**).

The New Testament uses these terms in much the same way.  
To illustrate:

1. That which is quality (physical or moral).  
(**Matthew 5:45; 7:11; Mark. 10:17; John. 5:29**).
2. Show a contrast between a good man and a righteous man.  
(**Romans 5:7; 7:16; Hebrews 5:14**).
3. There is a strong emphasis on God's goodness.  
(**Romans 2:4; Luke 18:19**).

## **Standard of Goodness**

Jesus' statement about only God is "good!" must be understood in its ultimate sense. There is none good, but God!

**Luke 18:19**, *So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.*

There is none righteous; no, not one!

**Romans 3:10**, *As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;*

These have to be understood in the ultimate sense, because these same Scriptures call men "good" and "righteous."

**3 John 1:11**, *Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.*

**1 John 3:7**, *Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.*

All men fall short of being like God, but men can be good and do good. men can be righteous and do righteousness.

The Spirit of God helps us to bear the fruit of goodness!

### **How does man determine what is good or goodness?**

The way we are made and with our ability to evaluate and reason, we generally know what is good. But we can become so hardened by sin and unbelief that our concept of goodness, as well as, right and wrong can be greatly hampered.

Apostle Paul, by inspiration, gave a long list of sins that were committed by the Gentile world (Romans 1:18-32). He stated

clearly that the wrath of God will be poured out on such people who commit these sins.

**Romans 1:32**, *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

Paul says that these people knew such deeds were evil, wrong, sinful, but they did them anyway.

**Romans 2:14**, *for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,*

He pointed out that even though the Gentiles did not have the Law (of Moses understood), they showed the work of the law written in their hearts!

But it is obvious that the Bible is the ultimate standard to determine what is good and the God who is portrayed in its pages.

A good man is portrayed as one whose life is committed to God and directed by His authority in all areas of his life.

This goodness comes from a God-centered and God-controlled life.

**John 14:15**, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

If we love God, we will not only show "kindness" but "goodness" as well.

Look how the Apostle used this term in his writings:

**Romans 15:14**, *Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*

**Ephesians 5:9**, *(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),*

**2 Thessalonians 1:11**, *Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,*

## **THE GOOD!**

When we talk about doing good or that someone is a good person, we show that we have evaluated their deeds or actions and believe that such generally are acceptable.

But men have a tendency to "lower" the bar of goodness so that more people can be included.

Instead of lowering the bar, the Bible raises the bar in order to challenge men to the greatest good.

We want to take two approaches to discuss the idea of that which is good or goodness.

**1. What does the Bible say about that which is good?**

**Romans 12:2**, *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

**1 Peter 3:13**, *And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?*

**Romans 12:9**, *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*

**Romans 13:3**, *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:15**, *See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.*

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

## 2. What are some features that show that a man is a good man?

**Matthew 25:21**, *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

**Romans 12:1-2**, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

**Acts 9:36**, *At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated [Dorcas](#). This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.*

**John 5:28-29**, *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice<sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

## Conclusion

The Christian is being called upon to demonstrate to the world God's goodness through his life of goodness!

Thus, his life will bring glory to God because of his good works.  
**Matthew 5:16**, *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

We are admonished not to allow ourselves to be overcome by evil, but that we overcome evil by doing good (Romans 12:21).

When we purify our hearts, then our speech will be pure.  
**Colossians 4:6**, *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

We will refrain our tongue from evil speech.  
**Ephesians 4:29**, *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

We can bring good things forth.

**Matthew 12:35**, *A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*

Not only do we govern our tongue, but our personal habits, our dress, our recreation, and our relationship with both men and women.

Let's be challenged to be men and woman of goodness!