

Fruit of the Spirit - Goodness

GOODNESS virtue - high moral standards - obedient to rules or conventions. Morally right, having values to a high standard. Doing what is right in the sight of God.

"I would not want to do anything that would upset my heavenly Father"

We are chosen to do good works.

John 15:16 *"You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit...."*

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Paul wrote to the Roman churches - **Rom 15:14** *"I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are **full of goodness**, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."*

Wouldn't it be wonderful to hear someone with the discernment of Paul say that of us!! He also warned The Churches at Ephesus -

Eph 5:5-11 *"for of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Live as children of light** (for the fruit of the light consists in **all goodness, righteousness and truth**) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."*

We need to differentiate between the "do-gooder" and the Christian demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit. **Isaiah 64:6** shows us that our attempts at doing good are like "*filthy rags*" in the sight of God unless they are initiated and anointed by the Holy Spirit. Another scripture that helps us is

Matt 7:17-19 *"Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit".*

Matt 12:34-35 *"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The **good man** brings good things out of the **good stored up in him**, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him."*

There are rewards for goodness:

2 Pet 1:11-12 *"and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have."*

Today the secular world does not deal with, or necessarily involve, moral or spiritual qualifications – living for Christ does. Therefore a Christian must be an example:-
Live by principle - what you believe, should affect your behaviour.
Live by precept - what you say, from the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks
Live by practice - what you do, you may be the only Biblical role model, someone ever sees.

Rom 2:5-11 “God *will give to each person according to what he has done.*” *To those who by **persistence in doing good** seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but **glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good.***

Luke 6:35 *But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.*

Must not tire of doing good

Galatians 6:9 *So we must not get **tired of doing good**, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.*

Take the initiative, what could you do to bless someone, phone call, little present, card etc. Make contact, maybe something you have been putting off.

We need to have grace and patience for some people and situations.

Luke 13:6-9 Fig tree - *'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down'.*

Jesus: inspired enthusiasm; set the standard and built people up.

Mat 5:16-20 *“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may **see your good deeds** and praise your Father in heaven. By their fruit you will recognize them.*

God has chosen us to be good trees and provided us with the ability and inspiration to do good things.

2 Peter 1:3 *“**His divine power** has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”*

Rom 8:28 *“And we know that in all things **God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

Rom 12:2 *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—*

his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Luke 6:38 *“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

Your life will come into focus when you are living God's way - even if it is costly.

Believers take priority

Galatians 6:10 *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Respect Authorities

Titus 3:1 *Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good*

1 Peter 2:13 *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors*

What do you need to do to improve the level of goodness in your life?