



Series: Love First week 6

Sermon Title: Fruit of Goodness

Date: 5/19/2024

Goodness is refreshing - but what exactly is goodness? *"Goodness" is moral excellence, integrity, and righteousness defined by God.*

Big Idea: Reflect the Goodness of God.

IS MY GOODNESS SELF-SERVING?

Philippians 2:3-4

Paul is writing to the Philippians and says to do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit. When we as believers do good, we're meant to do it with humility, counting others as more significant than ourselves. We should not only look to our own interests but also to the interests of others.

One way to know if your source is self-interest is to see if you find yourself asking the question, "What's in it for me?". Here's a better phrase to keep in your pocket, rather than saying, "I deserve, ask how can I serve?"

There is a story of a man in scripture who came to Jesus asking what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus responds by listing the commandments. The man tells Jesus that he has kept them all since his youth. Jesus told the man that he still lacked one thing - Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor and to follow Jesus. The man left sad because he was very rich. **Luke 18:19-23**

The man in this passage was willing to be good enough not to cheat on his spouse, murder, steal, and bear false witness, and was willing to

honor his father and mother, but to give all he has to the poor and follow Jesus... that's too much.

Jesus calls us to a standard of goodness that is inconvenient and goes beyond our own ambitions or self-interest. This goodness is possible when we let go of our desires and allow the Spirit of God to work through us.

DO I BELIEVE I WAS REDEEMED FOR GOODNESS?

Titus 2:14

Meaning the life and brokenness that Jesus redeemed you from. All the sin from your past, the shame and weight you carry, Jesus brought you out of that so that you could begin to bring goodness into the world. Through the way you love others, serve others, pray for others, worship with others, cry with others, celebrate with others, not because you have the strength to do it all but because Jesus has given you the ability to through the power of his Holy Spirit, and word. **Romans 15:14**

In Jesus' plan for your life, he wants you to become more like him. To do that, you must study what he studied, observe what he did, and listen to his words. **2 Timothy 3:16-17, Proverbs 2: 6**

HOW CAN I BETTER REFLECT GOD'S GOODNESS?

As we deepen our understanding of God's goodness and the standard he's stretching us toward, taking more opportunities to teach others about his goodness, we'll find ourselves in situations where others will hold us accountable to the life we call others to. **Ephesians 5:8-14**

Paul has given us a tool to use when trying to discern if what we're about to do or have been doing is good in God's eyes. It's basically asking the question: "Is what I'm about to do something I don't want people to find out about?"

In the brokenness of our flesh, we desire sinful acts and feelings. But Jesus has better plans for us. **Ephesians 2:10, Galatians 6:9**

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Describe someone in your life who displays goodness and how they impact you.**
- **What response do you have for people who believe they are getting to heaven because they have done more good things than bad?**
- **Is it possible for non-believers to be good? Explain why or why not.**
- **How frequently do you do something and ask, "What's in it for me"?**