



The Kingdom Perspective

The Goodness of God

Hello! This is Pastor Don from Christ Redeemer Church. Welcome to The Kingdom Perspective.

All things begin and end with God, which means that we do not really know which end is up until we see all things in the light of His being. For instance, we do not know what goodness is until we have understood that God is good.

Historic Christianity does not teach that God is good because He meets the standard of goodness (of course He does!). God is not good merely because He meets the standard of goodness, but rather because He IS the standard of goodness. He's the standard of all goodness, precisely because He is the source of all goodness. God IS good.

This only makes sense because if God is God, then He is the creator/source of all things. All the goodness of creation (all our true understanding of even the idea of goodness) is derivative from and therefore contingent/dependent upon Him.

Listen to the 17th century Westminster Confession's summary of this biblical truth:

"God has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He has made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them. He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things; and has most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever Himself pleases. In His sight all things are open and manifest, His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain. He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands. To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them." (Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter 2, Paragraph 2)

You see, God does not measure up to some standard of goodness outside of Himself. He IS the standard of goodness.

Something to think (deeply) about from The Kingdom Perspective.

"I will extol You, my God, O King,
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.
Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts,
And I will tell of Your greatness.
They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness
And will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful;

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Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.
The Lord is good to all,
And His mercies are over all His works.
All Your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord,
And Your godly ones shall bless You.
They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom
And talk of Your power;
To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts
And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord sustains all who fall
And raises up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to You,
And You give them their food in due time.
You open Your hand
And satisfy the desire of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all His ways
And kind in all His deeds.
The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.
He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He will also hear their cry and will save them.
The Lord keeps all who love Him,
But all the wicked He will destroy.
My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,
And all flesh will bless His holy name forever and ever.”

~ Psalm 145:1-21 (NASB95)