

The True Nature of God

Session 2 – His Nature of Goodness

I. Review

A. Session 1 - Knowing God vs Knowing About God

- 1. What do we know about God?**
- 2. Where did we get our information?**
- 3. Whose opinion are we following?**
- 4. The Nature of God**

Nature = the fundamental dispositions and characteristics of a person, including the way they think, feel and act.

- a. Thoughts (What does God think?)
 - b. Feelings (How does God feel?)
 - c. Expectations (What does God expect?)
 - d. Methods (What are God's methods?/ His way of doing things?)
- 5. The Word of God must be my foundation for everything I believe about God.**
- a. Everything I believe about Him must be filtered through the Word of God.

II. God's Nature of Goodness

His Goodness is the perfection of His Nature.

A. God is Good – Basic Scriptures

Psalm 34:8 NKJV

Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;
Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

Psalm 145:9 NKJV

The LORD *is* good to all,
And His tender mercies *are* over all His works.

1 Chron 16:34 NKJV

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good!
For His mercy *endures* forever.

Nahum 1:7 NKJV |

The LORD *is* good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.

Psalm 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Jeremiah 31:14

I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord.

Mark 10:18 NKJV

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

Acts 10:38 ESV.

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

(See Additional Notes)

B. God’s Creation was Good.

Gen 1:31 NKJV

³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good.

1 Tim 4:4 NIV

⁴For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving

C. What is Good?

Gen 1:31 NKJV

And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

1. Good Definition –

- Pleasant
- Excellent of its Kind
- Rich and valuable in estimation
- Rich and valuable in estimation
- Glad, happy, prosperous
- Good and right in an ethical sense
- A good thing or things being of benefit.
- Prosperity and happiness
- ORIGIN = to be good, pleasing and joyful – to be happy – to be right

2. When confronted with the question about God’s involvement in circumstances, we need to reference the “GOOD TEST”, *Is it Good?*

D. The “Why God” Dilemma

- 1. If God is Good, then why did He....**
- 2. If God is Good, then why didn’t God....**
- 3. If God is Good, why doesn’t He....**
- 4. If God is Good, why did He allow...**
- 5. Many are angry with God because they believe He has let them down.**
- 6. This type of questioning and reasoning usually doesn’t end well.**

E. There are some major unscriptural ideas about the nature of God.

- 1. God is responsible for everything that has occurred.**
- 2. God is responsible for everything that is presently happening.**
- 3. God is in control of all things.**
 - a. God has the ability to do all things, however He does not have the authority to do all things.
 - b. God is so absolute in His goodness, that He cannot violate His own laws/principles by which He governs.
 - c. God is governed by His own Word.

Psalm 138:2 KJV

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

NLT

I bow before your holy Temple as I worship. I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness; for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name.

Other Versions

Many state that He has exalted his Word and His name together.

NOTE:

*His Name is only as good as His Word
Because of his GOODNESS which includes is RIGHTEOUSNESS,*

*God will never violate His Word.
His Word/Law/Principles dictate His actions/*

d. The Earth 's Government

Gen 1:26 NKJV

²⁶Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over ^[a]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

DOMINION = to rule over – to govern – governing authority

Ps 115:16 NKJV

The heaven, *even* the heavens, *are* the LORD's;
But the earth He has given to the children of men.

e. Man is responsible for many things happening in the earth.

f. The Transfer of Authority on Earth

Luke 4:6 NKJV

And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

Note: In Genesis, Man had authority on earth. Here, Satan declares that the authority of the earth has been delivered to him. - *God of This World*

g. Many things are happening in the earth because of the fall.
Satan is functioning as the God of this world with limited authority.

The earth doesn't function as intended because of the fall.

- h.** God, through His goodness, has been working to restore man's authority since the fall.

 - Covenants
 - Law
 - Sacrifices
 - Prophecies
 - Jesus

- i.** The Day is coming when God will restore all that is lost, and His creation will be complete/perfect once again.

- j.** Until then, we live with a constant pressure the results from the fall. *Our position= to use every means made available by Jesus to stay in victory and overcome all the power of the enemy.*

- k.** God is not the one working harm in my life. God is the one who is working to protect me and bring me into the abundant life.

 - *If I leave inroads for the enemy – God is not responsible.*
 - *If I fail to resist the enemy – God is not responsible.*
 - *If I fail to believe and exercise faith- God is not responsible*

III. Conclusion

There will always be some things in life that we do not understand or cannot explain. These are the things that we must trust the Lord with. We must believe and be convinced that He is Good even when confronted with difficult issues.

Always maintain an eternal perspective.