

## WEEK 7: Goodness (*Agathōsunē*)

*Walk by the Spirit... The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:16, 22-23)*

[ WARMUP ]

[ THINK: What is “goodness”? ]

GOOD (first entries in dictionaries)

Merriam-Webster  
(adj.) of a favorable character or tendency  
(n.) something that is good

Oxford  
(adj.) to be desired or approved of  
(n.) that which is morally right; righteousness

[ THINK ]

Q: What, if anything, can we discern from the Bible about goodness itself?

*“I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of **goodness**, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.” (Rom. 15:14)*

*“[F]or at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is **good** and right and true)...” (Eph. 5:8-9)*

*“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for **good** and every work of faith by his power...” (2 Thess. 1:11)*

“What is God’s ‘goodness’? Is it something *in* him? It would be more accurate, I think, to say that ‘divine goodness,’ though it sounds like an abstract property, is really just a way of referring to everything God is. For everything God does is good, and everything he is is good. All his attributes are good. All his decrees are good. All his actions are good. There is nothing in God that is not good. [...] Our moral standard is not an impersonal, abstract property. It is a person, the living God.”

John Frame, *The Doctrine of God*, p. 229

Q: How might this view of goodness impact our interactions with people who aren’t Christians?

[ CONSIDER: Luke 18:18-19; Psalm 119:68 ]

[ Galatians 6:6-10 ]

### TAKEAWAYS:

- A concept of “good” as an abstract philosophical or cultural idea ceases to be goodness at all.
- “No one is good except God alone,” so God is the origin, the standard, and the maker of good.