



attributes of *God*

WEEK 12 — GOD IS GOOD



PSALM 119 : 68

You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.

A. W. TOZER

“It is most important that we know about God’s goodness and know what kind of God He is.
What is God like? It is a question that must be answered.”

Review

COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Omniscience | 4) Omnipotence |
| 2) Wisdom | 5) Peace and order |
| 3) Truthfulness | |

THE NEXT ATTRIBUTES ARE THE “MORAL” COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES

REMEMBER THE UNITY OF GOD

God is fully always these attributes.
No one attribute is more important than the others.

God Is Good

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SOMEONE OR SOMETHING TO BE GOOD?

ATTEMPTS TO DEFINE GOD’S GOODNESS:

Herman Bavinck	<i>“God is the sum total of all perfections.”</i>
A. W. Pink	<i>“The goodness of God refers to the perfection of his nature...”</i>
John Frame	<i>“To ascribe to God the highest perfection in all his attributes”</i>

James P. Boyce – *“In one aspect of this word, it is merely equivalent to holiness.... On the other hand, the goodness of God may be spoken of as kindness, benevolence, or beneficence towards others.”*

Wayne Grudem – *“God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.”*

J. I. Packer – *“Goodness, in God as in human beings, means something admirable, attractive, and praise-worthy. When the biblical writers call God good, they are thinking in general of all those moral qualities which prompt his people to call him perfect, and in particular of the generosity which moves them to call him merciful and gracious and to speak of his love.”*

A. W. Tozer – *“God is kindhearted, gracious, good-natured and benevolent in intention.”*
“God is not only infinitely good. He is perfectly good.”

Thomas Manton – *“He is originally good, good of Himself, which nothing else is; for all creatures are good only by participation and communication from God. He is essentially good; not only good, but goodness itself: the creature’s good is a superadded quality, in God it is His essence. He is infinitely good; the creature’s good is but a drop, but in God there is an infinite ocean or gathering together of good. He is eternally and immutably good, for He cannot be less good than He is; as there can be no addition made to Him, so no subtraction from Him.”*

God's Goodness Is Seen Throughout Scripture

Psalms 34:8 --- "Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!"

Psalms 100:5 --- "For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

Psalms 106:1 --- "Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Psalms 107:1-2 --- "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so"

Isaiah 63:7 --- "I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love."

Nahum 1:7 --- "The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."

Mark 10:18 --- "And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.'"

ASPECTS OF GOD'S GOODNESS

1. THE FINAL STANDARD OF GOODNESS IS GOD AND WHAT HE APPROVES

2. EVERYTHING GOD DOES IS GOOD AND WORTHY OF APPROVAL

Psalms 119:68 – "You are good and do good; teach me your statutes."

God's Goodness in Creation

Genesis 1:31 --- "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."



God's Goodness in Redemption

Titus 3:3-37 --- "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

God's Goodness in His Plan for Our Lives

Romans 12:2 --- "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

3. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL GOOD THINGS

We have nothing good apart from what God has given us.

Acts 14:17 --- "Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

James 1:17 --- "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

"God controls all that happens in his world, every meal, every pleasure, every possession, every bit of sun, every night's sleep, every moment of health and safety, everything else that sustains and enriches life, is a divine gift. And how abundant these gifts are!" (J. I. Packer)

4. GOD IS GOOD TO HIS OWN PEOPLE IN A SPECIAL WAY

There is a common grace and goodness from God that all mankind experiences.

Yet, there is a particular goodness (a "loving-kindness") God shows to His people.

Nehemiah 1:5 --- "And I said, 'O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments...'"

Psalms 73:1 --- "Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart."

Psalms 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."

Lamentations 3:25 --- "The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."

Titus 3:4 --- "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."

Philippians 1:6 --- "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Even God's discipline of His children is good.

Hebrews 12:6-11 --- ⁶“For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” ⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

BUT WAIT! Things happen that don't seem good to me

Remember God alone has all wisdom and knowledge.

He sees the “big picture” and we can trust Him.

Romans 8:28 --- “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

James 1:2-4 --- “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

“If you are a true believer, and he still puts thorns in your bed, it is only to keep you from falling into the somnolence of complacency and to ensure that you ‘continue in his goodness’ by letting your sense of need bring you back constantly in self-abasement and faith to seek his face. This kindly discipline, in which God’s severity touches us for a moment in the context of his goodness, is meant to keep us from having to bear the full brunt of that severity apart from that context. It is a discipline of love, and it must be received accordingly.” (J. I. Packer)

Scripture is full of examples of God using difficulties to bring about good for His people

Genesis 50:20 --- “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

Psalms 119:71 --- “It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 --- “So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

THIS IS A COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTE

**God has given to us the ability to do good (what He approves).
Therefore, we should strive to do good.**

Galatians 6:10 --- "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Luke 6:27 --- "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

But, remember we need the Word of God and the Holy Spirit at work in us to do so.

2 Timothy 3:17 --- "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Galatians 5:22-23 --- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

CHALLENGE

WE SHOULD SEEK GOD BECAUSE HE IS THE ULTIMATE GOOD

Psalms 73:25-26 --- "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

WE SHOULD CONTINUALLY THANK GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS TO US

Psalms 107:8 --- "Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!"

1 Thessalonians 5:18 --- "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

"Gratitude is the return justly required from the objects of his beneficence; yet it is often withheld from our great Benefactor simply because His goodness is so constant and so abundant. It is lightly esteemed because it is exercised toward us in the common course of events. It is not felt because we daily experience it." (A. W. Pink)

"Dear Lord, because you are good you give good gifts. You have satisfied me with so many good things, and I often fail to acknowledge them or give thanks to you. Forgive my ingratitude and my presumption upon your grace to me." (Rosemary Jensen)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Name as many good gifts of God as you can think (*ok, just in the next 5 minutes!*)
2. Why are we so quick to forget God's goodness when life gets tough?
3. Do we have an attitude of thankfulness for God's goodness to us?
What can we do to better daily remember these gifts are from God?
4. Consider Galatians 6:10 again.
What are ways we can do good to other believers here at Gateway?
5. How can we encourage and help each other do good to people outside the church, even those who hate us?
6. What songs do you know that describe God's goodness?
7. What is one practical thing you will strive to do this week to live out this communicable attribute of goodness this week?

