

The Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness  
(Galatians 5:22-23)

Introduction:

1. The fruit of the Spirit consists of the 9 special characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. In this lesson we are concentrating on the 6<sup>th</sup> characteristic: "goodness."

Discussion:

I. LET US FIRST DEFINE "GOODNESS"

- A. Goodness (dictionary): the state or quality of being good.
- B. Goodness (Bible) is generally defined as "uprightness of heart and life."
- C. Goodness involves:
  1. abstaining from evil (Galatians 5:19-21)
    - a. We learn from 2 Timothy 2:19-21 that we must purge ourselves of evil so we can be sanctified and prepared unto every good work.
    - b. We are taught in 1 Peter 3:10-11 to "*eschew evil, and do good.*"
    - c. According to 3 John 11, we are not to follow that which is evil, but we are to follow that which is good.
  2. doing that which is good.
    - a. A woman known for her goodness was Dorcas (Acts 9:36-39).
    - b. A man known for his goodness was Barnabas (Acts 11:24).
    - c. Dorcas and Barnabas were imitating Christ "*who went about doing good*" (Acts 10:38).

II. THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS CHRISTIANS TO DO GOOD

- A. Galatians 6:10
- B. Ephesians 2:10
- C. Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR DOING GOOD

- A. Jesus taught in Luke 6:45 that we must have good hearts because our hearts will determine what we do.
- B. We must develop and exercise "discernment."
  1. See Hebrews 5:14
  2. Discernment will enable us to follow the instructions in 1 Thessalonians 5:21.
- C. We must be "*thoroughly furnished*" [completely equipped] unto good works -- the Scriptures will accomplish this (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Conclusion:

1. This past week the world saw great evil demonstrated when many people, including children, were killed and injured by chemical poisoning.
2. The world needs to see our good works (Matthew 5:16).
3. Let us remember that:
  - a. we will be judged by the good we have done (2 Corinthians 5:10)
  - b. God will bless those who do good (Galatians 6:9).