



Message Discussion Guide Week of October 23, 2022

Message: Fruitful, Part 7: Goodness

Key Scripture: [Luke 6:43-45](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

Do you desire to be good? Most of us do, but we are aware of our shortcomings. That's why we spend billions of dollars every year on self-help materials. We want to be better.

Goodness means having complete wholeness without defect or flaw. It is closely related to integrity.

- A good person is the same person regardless of circumstances. She is not phony or hypocritical.
- A good person chooses to do the right thing because it is right, not because it is rewarding.

All of us live inconsistent lives. There is goodness within us, but also evil. We want to do good, but we often don't do what we want to do.

Jesus said goodness is a fruit of the heart. And when it comes to the heart of our lives, our hearts are divided. If we want to be good and live with integrity, we need a new heart, which is why Jesus says we need to be born again.

No one is truly good, except God. And so our desire to be good is really a desire to be like God. We can become more like God when we immerse ourselves in Christ. To cultivate goodness in our lives we can:

- Meditate on God's Word daily
- Surround ourselves with godly people

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Tom said that most of us want to be good and desire to become better people, as evidenced by the \$13 billion self-help industry. Do you agree that most people want to do good? Why is it so hard to become a better person?

2. Read Romans 7:14-20: Do you resonate with these verses? Why is it that our willpower isn't enough to help us do the good we desire.
3. Read Luke 6:43-45. What is Jesus saying about the relationship between our hearts and being good? What does the fruit of your life say about your heart?
4. Listen to the song, "The only thing that's Good in me" by Michael English at this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59e3r41YOI>
 - a. How do these lyrics speak to you?
 - b. What does it mean to say that the only thing good in me is Jesus?
5. How can you have more of Christ in your life? What are some practical things you can do to let the goodness of Christ grow in you?

Call to Action: Record every minute that you spend consuming entertainment this week (TV, movies, books, podcasts). Divide that number by 2, and resolve to spend half the time you would spend consuming entertainment meditating on God's Word. For example, if you spend 60 minutes consuming entertainment, resolve to spend 30 minutes next week, and use the extra 30 minutes to study God's Word.