

FOR GOODNESS SAKE

Fruitful Living – Part 6

Mother's Day, May 12, 2013

WHAT IS GOODNESS?

Genesis 1:31a (NIV) “God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.”

Genesis 2:9 (NIV) “The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

1. Whose STANDARD for goodness are you using?

Matthew 19:16-17a (NIV) “A man came up to Jesus and asked, ‘Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?’¹⁷ ‘Why do you ask Me about what is good?’ Jesus replied. ‘There is only One who is good.’ ”

Romans 3:23 (NIV) “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

2. Is your goodness GOOD ENOUGH?

Matthew 19:17b-20 (NIV) “‘If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.’¹⁸ ‘Which ones?’ the man inquired. Jesus replied, ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony,¹⁹ honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’²⁰ ‘All these I have kept,’ the young man said. ‘What do I still lack?’ ”

3. Do you know the goodness of God's GRACE?

Matthew 19:21-22 (NIV) “Jesus answered, ‘If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.’²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.”

Matthew 19:23 (NIV) “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven.’ ”

Matthew 19:25-26 (NIV) “When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’ ”

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**Goodness is fulfilling the PURPOSE
you were created for.**

Philippians 2:13 (NIV) “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”

For Goodness Sake DO SOMETHING!

Galatians 6:9-10 (NIV) “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

Mark 12:43-44 (NLT) “Jesus called His disciples to Him and said, ‘I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. ⁴⁴For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.’ ”

Mark 14:6, 9 (NLT) “But Jesus replied, ‘Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to Me?’⁹ I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed.’ ”