

17th March Adult Sunday School

The Fruit of the Spirit in the life of Christ: Goodness

- To discuss before we begin

- 1) How does the world view 'goodness' ?
- 2) In popular culture what does it mean to be good..?
- 3) Church goers are a bunch of 'do-gooders' – how would you respond to that comment..?

- Introduction

Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5 v 22

- 1) Goodness defined by God

- Luke 18 v 18- 19
- God alone is good
- Goodness begins with God**

This is the true and genuine character of God. He is Good, he is goodness, good in himself, good in his essence, good in the highest degree, possessing whatsoever is comely, excellent, desirable, the highest good, because the first good.. All the names of God are comprehended in this one of good

Stephen Charnock

- Exodus 33 v 19
- In his creation and in his providence

We believe this good God, after he created all things, did not abandon them to chance or fortune but leads and governs them according to his holy will, in such a way that nothing happens in this world without his orderly arrangement.

Belgic Confession (Article 13)

- Matthew 7 v 11

- God's claim to being good is challenged by the world,
- Our response: God's goodness is ultimately shown in his redemption plan: *His patient long suffering love for his rebellious creation.*

-The goodness of God is supremely shown in his son, his life death and resurrection

- **2) The goodness of Jesus**

- How is Jesus Good?
- Jesus is good because *he obeys, submits to, serves and fulfils God's law*
- Romans 7 v 12
- Mark 12 v 28-31
- Jesus embodies the goodness of God

- **3) How can we be good?**

- We are only good through our union with Jesus

Knowing Jesus and being united to him transforms us and gives us capacity for goodness

Landry Cruse

- We can only do good through the power and the work of the spirit in the believer
- 2 Peter Ch 2 v 12-15
- Goodness is a conscious decision working together with the spirit
- Our good deeds are tainted
- Our goodness has limits
- Warning: reliance on own strength, works, response:
- Look to Jesus**

- **4) Discuss and pray**

Share what has struck you /encouraged you about God's goodness today. How is it encouraging that we are not saved by our goodness. But by Jesus obedience to the good law?

What areas of our lives do we need to be more like Jesus.. and his goodness? Pray for the holy spirit to work goodness in your heart.