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# The Fruit of Goodness (Overcoming Evil)

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The Fruit of the Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

June 28, 2020

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***Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Goodness (Overcoming Evil)***

***New Series Messages: “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit II (Producers)”***

- Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- **What’s the purpose of each element, and how do we produce and use them?**
- Sermon: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Joy (The Strength of Life)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Peace (Keeping Your Heart)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Longsuffering (“Waiting” on the Lord)
- Sermon: The Fruit of Gentleness (Controlled Power)
  - Definition: The Controlled Power to be Kind to those who are Cruel
  - Purpose: Deliver the Lost out of the hands or snares of the Enemy
  - Produce: Gentleness is Produced when we give Mercy over and over again

***Lesson Text***

Romans 7:21–25 (AV)<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 12:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:19–21 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. <sup>21</sup> Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

***Introduction***

Goodness is the final element in the second cluster of the Fruit of the Spirit. This cluster of fruit is produced in us to help us to get along with each other.

- A. Longsuffering is about putting up or enduring with our fellowman
- B. Gentleness is about how we forgive and show mercy to our fellowman
- C. Goodness is about what we do to and for our fellowman

How many of you have ever struggled with vengeance or revenge? Someone did something to you and even if it wasn’t to hurt them, you wanted some form of “Get Back” or “Payback”?

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Goodness is that quality found in the person who is ruled by what is good and represents the highest moral and ethical values.

3 John 11 (KJV) <sup>11</sup> Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

The problem is that evil is at the heart of all of us.

Romans 7:18–21 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.... <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

And therein lies the problem; because people are basically evil, their behavior provokes and brings the evil out of us in the form of revenge or vengeance.

Romans 12:19–21 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. <sup>20</sup> Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

It's one thing to put up with evil people with Longsuffering. It's also one thing to forgive and show mercy to evil people with Gentleness. But it's another thing altogether to turn around and do good to these same people.

Romans 12: <sup>21</sup> Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Holy Spirit produces Goodness in us to not only overcome the evil of people, but to overcome the evil they bring out in us so that we can do good!

***Series and Sermon: The Fruit of the Holiness: The Fruit of Goodness (Overcoming Evil)***

“The Definition, Purpose, and Production of Goodness”

### ***I. The Definition of Goodness***

How do we define the Fruit of the Spirit Goodness?

Romans 7:21–25 (AV)<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Have you even noticed that sometimes people can do good things, and that those same people can turn around and do evil things?

It is because although they can mimic good, they do may not possess the spirit of goodness.

Our lesson text teaches us that there are two laws at work within us. They are at war against each other; the law of Goodness from God, and the Law of Evil within Man.

Luke 6: <sup>45</sup> A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

As Christians, we don't want to just do good; but we want to be good! And this Goodness comes from the depth of God himself.

**The Definition of Goodness is being ruled by what is good to not just do good, but be good**

Matthew 12:33 (NLT) <sup>33</sup> “A tree is identified by its fruit. Make a tree good, and its fruit will be good. Make a tree bad, and its fruit will be bad.”

The human flesh made us bad at birth (shaped in iniquity and conceived in sin), but when we were born again, the Holy Spirit gave us the power of Goodness to win the war against Evil.

Romans 7: <sup>25</sup> I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

## ***II. The Purpose of Goodness***

What is the purpose of Goodness?

Romans 12: <sup>19</sup> Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

As we stated earlier, it is within our human nature to want some “Get Back” or “Payback”!

Romans 7: <sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:

And when people hurt us, that “no good thing” rises up in us and wants payback or vengeance.

Whereas Longsuffering gives us the power to restrain our anger and endure them, and Gentleness gives us the power to forgive and show mercy to them; Goodness gives us the power to not respond with evil, but to overcome evil by doing good.

**The purpose of Goodness is to overcome the evil within us to do Good to evil people.**

Romans 12: <sup>20</sup> Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. <sup>21</sup> Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

It's not just the evil of people that goodness overcomes, it's the evil with us it overcomes.

Our evil would let them starve, but God's goodness feeds them. our evil will let them dehydrate, but God's goodness fills them. Our evil would curse them, but God's goodness blesses them. Our evil would spite them, but God's goodness does good them that spitefully use us.

## ***III. The Production of Goodness***

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Goodness is being ruled by what is Good, so that if it's in you, it will come out of you. Its purpose is to overcome the evil within you so that you can do good to evil people.

But how do we produce Goodness?

Romans 12:1–2 (AV)<sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: ***but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good,*** and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

### **The Holy Spirit produces Goodness when our Minds are Transformed into the Goodness of God**

Jesus said, Mark 10: <sup>18</sup> ... *there is none good but one, that is, God.*

So, in order for us to produce Good, we must be transformed by God into Good.

We are Transformed into Good when we Present our Bodies a Living Sacrifice

We are Transformed into Good when we Live Holy and Acceptable Unto God

We are Transformed into Good when we are Not Conformed to this World

We are Transformed into Good when we Renew our Minds to prove what is that Good, Acceptable, and Perfect will of God.

Psalms 37: <sup>23</sup> The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Luke 6: <sup>45</sup> ***A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good;***

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fruit of Goodness (Overcoming Evil))

### Lesson Text

- Romans 7:21–25, Romans 12:1–2, Romans 12:19–21

### Sermon Outline

#### I. *The Definition of Goodness*

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#### II. *The Purpose of Goodness*

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#### III. *The Production of Goodness*

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### Questions

#### I. **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. Would you rather be an extreme genius or extremely wealthy?
2. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

#### II. **Into the Bible**

1. Upon hearing that he was to love his neighbor as himself, a certain expert in Jewish law asked Jesus to define “neighbor.” Jesus responded with a story, which we read in Luke 10:30-37. Who is our neighbor? Why was the lawyer likely surprised by the outcome of the story? Give scriptural support for your answer.
2. Read James 2:14-17. What is the relationship between displaying the goodness of God in our actions and faith? What failures to act does James use to describe unprofitable faith? Why do you think he highlights these particular failures?

#### III. **Life Application**

1. What daily disciplines should we follow in working with the Holy Spirit in transforming us in the renewing of our minds?
2. After hearing the sermon, what mindset should we have to overcome the “get back” or “payback” mentality?