

---

---

# Sermon Notes

October 20, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

## Be Good Like God Galatians 6:10

### "God is So Good..."

- ❖ God is good and God is the source of all goodness (Psalm 34:8, Psalm 27:13, Psalm 23:6)
  - the original word the Bible uses for “good” literally means to be “like God”
  - ***There is only one who is good.*** (Matthew 19:17)
- ❖ God calls His children to be like Him
  - this includes goodness
  - bear the family resemblance... imitate God
    - high standards of moral excellence and goodness are two different things!
    - the ability to be good like God comes from the Holy Spirit

### Being Good Like God

- ❖ The idea of being good like God may sound strange to us, in part, because of the ways we most frequently use the word "good"
  - oftentimes we link “being good” with behavior

- mirroring the goodness of God involves much more than behavior
- goodness with a "capital 'G'"
- ❖ "Goodness" in the eyes of Greek philosophers
  - the experience of pleasure
  - the absence of pain
  - the acquisition of knowledge
  - the greatest good for the greatest number (the greater good becomes the measuring stick of goodness)
  - simply put: for the Greeks, “good” was all about having goods and goodies
- ❖ Both Jesus and Paul deliver a completely different message about "goodness"
  - God's nature and character are the standard of goodness
  - God doesn't turn His back on those who reject Him
  - God doesn't cast away those who are unjust (Matthew 5:45, Luke 6:35)

### Created To Do Good

- ❖ God created you to be a representative of His goodness
  - Ephesians 2:10, ***For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.***
  - before you were born, God prepared a whole "menu" of ***good works*** for you to "walk in"

more often than not, the *good works* God prepared in advance for you to do are little, everyday, common things (cf. 1 Timothy 5:9-10)

- bringing up children is *good work*
  - offering hospitality to strangers is *good work*
  - meeting the practical needs of others is *good work*
  - offering care and assistance to those who are going through a rough patch is *good work*
- ❖ As you have opportunity, **DO GOOD** (Galatians 6:10)
- half or more than half your life spent at work
  - do you view your job as an opportunity to do *good works*?
  - opportunity to do *good works* abound at home
  - practice doing *good works* at home so you will be better prepared and equipped to go out and start doing *good deeds* for others
- ❖ Pray for direction and guidance about who God wants you to do good to
- God prepares *good works* for you to do that are consistent with your gifts and with your circumstances
  - giving time to someone is often far more valuable and far more important than giving money
- ❖ *Good works* are important to Jesus
- the parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46)
  - feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, looking out for the stranger among us, clothing the naked, visiting the sick or imprisoned are actually ministering to Jesus Himself

■ we serve God by serving others

- ❖ We are not saved on the basis of *good works*, but they are vital evidence that our faith is real and that we are not fooling ourselves

### Personal Reflection

1. Think back over the past twenty-four hours. How aware were you of the needs and well-being of the people around you? If you were distracted, what distracted you?
2. What are some of the unique things God has built into your life through either circumstances or gifts that may indicate the kind of good works He has prepared for you to do?
3. What opportunities have you had over the past couple of days to do good at work? at home? to another believer? to an unbeliever?
4. Do you know anyone who needs some time and attention? If so, what can you do?
5. If you often miss opportunities to do good, what hinders you?
6. Meditate on Matthew 25:31–46. What emotions does this passage raise in you? Why? How does God want you to respond to this passage?