

The Fruit of Goodness!

Galatians 5:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- BIG John was a “good man”
- What do we mean when we say that some was a “good person”?
 - Morally good?
 - Responsibly good?
 - Caringly Good?

The Fruit of Goodness

A. The Meaning: moral and spiritual excellence with sweetness and active kindness.

B. The Models for Goodness

1. God the Father is GOOD!

- a. Jesus Christ and the rich young man—Mark 10:17-18
- b. Recurring refrain in the Old Testament: “*For the LORD is good*” --1 Chron. 16:34; 2 Chron. 5:13; Ezra 3:11; Psalm 100:5
- c. How is God good?
 - 1) Morally good—usually described with the words “holy” and “righteous”
 - 2) Responsibly good—usually described with the words “truth” and “faithfulness”
 - 3) Caringly good—Psalm 145:8-21 “*The LORD is good to ALL*”

2. Jesus Christ as the “Good” Shepherd.—John 10:11, 14-15

C. The Means to Goodness

1. As we are filled with the Spirit of God, we are full of goodness. Romans 15:14; Ephesians 5:8-10

2. As we pursue excellence in two particular areas: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

a. Excellence in Our Walk of Faith—1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- 1) It is God’s will for us to model our faith before the world!
- 2) It is God’s will for us to be separate from the world
 - a) Meaning of “sanctification”—to be “set apart” as unto God
 - b) “Insulation” not “isolation”—1 Corinthians 5:9-10
- 3) Illustration and Application: Sexual Purity
 - a) A particular temptation for the believers at Thessalonica
 - b) How do we keep ourselves sexually pure?
 - (1) Abstain.
 - (2) Need to know how to control your own sexual urges
 - (a) Through the sanctity of marriage—1 Corinthians 7:1-5, 9
 - (b) Flee from temptation—1 Corinthians 6:18
 - (c) NOT by giving in to one’s feelings—1 Thessalonians 4:5
 - (3) Need to challenge the myth that sexual immorality is harmless—4:6
 - (4) Recognize that this teaching is from God—4:8
- 4) Possible to be excellent in our walk of faith and not manifest the fruit of goodness.- Rom. 5:7

b. Excellence in our Labor of Love—1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

- 1) We are called to a life of good works—Ephesians 2:10
- 2) The circle of our love is to expand and grow to include all. Luke 6:27; Galatians 6:10
- 3) How can we excel in our labor of love?
 - a) Slow down so that we can devote time to do quality work—4:11; Phil 1:9-11
 - b) Mind your own business
 - (1) There is a time and place to mind other people’s business—Phil. 2:4; Gal. 6:2
 - (2) But we need to focus on doing what God has given us to do—John 21:15-22
 - c) Get busy
 - d) Keep pressing on—Phil. 2:12-14