

GOOD

October 13, 2019

Introduction: How would you place these words in order of importance – Excellent, wonderful, acceptable, great, good, satisfactory, exceptional? When you think about your life, which one of these words would describe you? Do you live in the world of excellence? Or do you live in the world of satisfactory? Our culture speaks of the ‘good life’, being people of ‘good times’. We define ourselves as good people, not excellent, exceptional or wonderful. We are good. But, is good enough?

Scripture Reading: Romans 7:15–21

I. There is No One Who Does Good

*The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; **there is none who does good** (Psalm 14:1).*

*“All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; **no one does good**, not even one” (Romans 3:12).*

II. How Does One Define Good?

*The **good** person out of the **good** treasure of his heart produces **good**, and the evil person out of his **evil** treasure produces **evil**, for **out of the abundance of the heart** his mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).*

A. Does how we define good matter?

- Morally excellent; virtuous; righteous; pious
- Satisfactory in quality, quantity, or degree.
- Of high quality; excellent.

B. The tension of good.

¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is **good**. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but **sin** that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing **good** dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is **right**, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the **good** I want, but the **evil** I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but **sin** that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do **right**, **evil** lies close at hand (Romans 7:15–21).

III. Who Gets to Define Good?

A. The word ‘good’ is defined by God, Himself.

*And he said, "I will make **all my goodness** pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy (Exodus 33:19).*

Creation: Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31

B. Good is defined by the attributes of God.

*For you, O Lord, are **good** and **forgiving**, abounding in **steadfast love** to all who call upon you (Psalm 86:5).*

*For the Lord is **good**; his **steadfast love** endures forever, and his **faithfulness** to all generations (Psalm 100:5). (Psalm 106:1) (Psalm 107:1) (Psalm 118:1)*

*You are **good** and do **good**; teach me your statutes (Psalm 119:68).*

*¹⁷ And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "**Good Teacher**, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me **good**? **No one is good except God alone** (Mark 10:17–18).*

IV. Desire to be Good.

*He has told you, O man, **what is good**; and what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**, and to **walk humbly** with your God? (Micah 6:8).*

*...I want you to be wise as to what is **good and innocent** as to what is evil (Romans 16:19).*

*The **good** person out of the **good** treasure of his heart produces **good**, and the evil person out of his **evil** treasure produces **evil**, for **out of the abundance of the heart** his mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).*

V. Doing Good

A. Imitate God.

*Beloved, do not imitate evil but **imitate good**. **Whoever does good is from God**; whoever does evil has not seen God (3 John 11).*

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your **good works** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).*

B. Why? There is a reward.

*His master said to him, 'Well done, **good and faithful servant**. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master' (Matthew 25:23).*

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Scripture Reading: Romans 7:15–21

I. There is No One Who Does Good (*Psalm 14:1*) (*Romans 3:12*)

II. How Does One Define Good? (*Luke 6:45*)

A. How does one define good?

B. The _____ of _____. (*Romans 7:15–21*)

III. The Definition of Good

A. The word ‘good’ is defined by _____, _____. (*Exodus 33:19*)

Creation: Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31

B. Good is defined by the _____ of God.
(*Psalm 86:5*) (*Psalm 100:5*) (*Psalm 106:1*) (*Psalm 107:1*) (*Psalm 118:1*) (*Psalm 119:68*)

IV. Desire to be _____. (*Micah 6:8*) (*Mark 10:17–18*) (*Romans 16:19*)

V. Doing Good

A. Imitate _____. (*3 John 11*) (*Matthew 5:16*)

B. Why? There is a _____. (*Matthew 25:23*)