### **The Doctrine of God**

### Redeemer Presbyterian Church – Adult Sunday School

### Teacher: Ben Dunson

**Week 8: The Goodness and Holiness of God**

1. Goodness
   1. Definition: Mark 10:18: “No one is good except God alone.”
   2. God is good
      1. Ps 136:1: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (See also Ps 63:3)
      2. The goodness of the creator: Gen 1:31
      3. The Problem of Evil? Jer 12:1; Acts 2:23
   3. Human goodness (a communicable attribute)
      1. Reflecting God’s goodness: Isa 64:6; Ps 119:68
      2. Pleasing God: 1 Thess 4:1; WCF 16.6
      3. Love God, hate sin: Jer 2:13; Rom 2:4; Ps 34:8; Ps 16:2; Anslem in *Proslogion*; Augustine on Ps 4:6–7
2. Holiness
   1. Definition
   2. God is holy
      1. Isa 6:3b: ““Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
   3. Human holiness (a communicable attribute)
      1. Holiness in Christ: 1 Cor 1:30
      2. Other images of salvation: judicial (righteousness), reconciliation (relationship), adoption (family), etc.
      3. We must be holy: 1 Cor 1:2l; Lev 11:44; 1 Pet 1:14–16; Heb 12:14
      4. Progressive sanctification
      5. Christ our model: Heb 7:26
      6. Purity: Matt 5:8; Phil 4:8
      7. Holiness and joy: Ps 51:10–12; WCF 11.5
3. Conclusion: Pseudo-Dionysius on God’s love

**Quotes**

* “God is the sum total of all perfections . . . All virtues are present in him in an absolute sense.” (Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics* 2.211)
* Westminster Confession of Faith 16.6: “the persons of believers being accepted through Christ, their good works also are accepted in Him”
* Anslem (*Proslogion*, ch. 25): “Love the one good in which all good things exist, and it will be sufficient for you.”
* Augustine on Ps 4:6–7: “God alone is the supreme good all things strive for, the fount of all good things, the good of every good, the one necessary and all-sufficient good, the end of all goods.” (Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine* I, ch. 3)
* Westminster Confession of Faith 11.5: “God doth continue to forgive the sins of those that are justified; and, although they can never fall from the state of justification, yet they may, by their sins, fall under God's fatherly displeasure, and not have the light of his countenance restored unto them, until they humble themselves, confess their sins, beg pardon, and renew their faith and repentance.”
* Pseudo-Dionysius: God’s love is “an endless circle through the Good, from the Good, in the Good, and to the Good, unerringly turning, ever on the same center, ever in the same direction, always proceeding, always remaining, always being restored to itself.” (*The Divine Names and Mystical Theology*, 12.2)