

Sermon Text Discussion 7/26/2020

Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness (Taylor Sutton) Galatians 6:7-10

Overview

The sixth fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) is goodness. While we may have a tendency to think of 'goodness' as a general, somewhat vague behavior, a Greek dictionary defines the word Paul uses (Galatians 5:22) for goodness as a "positive moral quality characterized especially by interest in the welfare of others." It conveys the idea of generosity. We will see, from our text, how goodness fits into the life of a Christian (verses 7, 8) and what it looks like for a Christian to demonstrate goodness (verses 9, 10).

Quotations

"Goodness is kindness in action." Jerry Bridges (*A Fruitful Life*)

"Goodness is expressed through concrete actions." Taylor Sutton

Understanding & Application

- 1) Explain the two common phrases, 'you reap what you sow' and 'choices of consequences'. How do they relate to goodness? Given examples when these truths played out in your own life.
- 2) Read the parable of 'The Good Samaritan' (Luke 10:30-37). How does this example explain the Bridges quote above? What actions did the Samaritan take? What scenarios might you encounter today of someone in need of a 'good Samaritan'? What range of options might you take?
- 3) What does it mean "the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (verse 8)?
- 4) Explain verse 9. When and why might we grow weary of doing good? Can you think of someone who may be weary of doing good? How might you encourage them?
- 5) Taylor challenges us to go beyond 'taking the right position or holding the right opinion' as it relates to issues in our current culture – abortion, racial injustice, government actions, etc. What might it look like for us to take concrete action in one of these areas?