



FRUIT(FULL) Goodness

#npfruit(full)

Week 7
7 of 10

May 23, 2021

Bottom Line: Our goodness is found in the goodness of God.

Icebreaker: Think over your last five days. What is something you saw in someone's life and actions that was a living witness to God-style goodness?

Key Verse: *Jesus went everywhere doing good for people.* Acts 10:38 ERV

"Goodness" is a very important word. Goodness establishes God's standards and purposes. At the heart of it, good is the opposite of evil. Evil is simply the absence of Good, more specifically the absence of God. If you're a Christ-follower, you will have a life filled with goodness because it's a life filled with God's Spirit. Goodness is not an action, it's a reality. It's a position you live from: consistency and character. Goodness comes from our creation by God. Everything created by God is good, but it ceases being good when it ceases to reflect God in character and deed. It is not a quality we can manufacture on our own. When the Holy Spirit controls us, the fruit of goodness is produced in us. Our goodness is intended to bring blessing to the lives of others.

True goodness is expressed as we 1) **Speak the truth.** Not speaking the truth in love breaks relationships. Speak it clearly, completely, and compassionately. Doing this may be costly. Too often we are so tied to our need for approval or our need for control that we won't pay the price of being truthful. Only the fruit of the Spirit of goodness will help us be secure enough to tell the truth kindly regardless of the personal cost of unselfish concern for others. 2) **Keep your promises.** Nothing destroys relationships like promise you don't keep. Circumstances may have changed, but having integrity means you keep your promises even if they no longer benefit you, even if they hurt you, or even if they cost more than you anticipated. The only way to truly keep your promises is that at some point you will need to separate your character from your emotions. No one makes a promise without feeling some level of passion to do so. It's when the emotion leaves that keeping your word becomes more difficult. 3) **Live authentically.** Many of us try to "create" ourselves and "brand" ourselves. Living for goodness means you don't pretend. You're real with yourself and others. You're an open book. You're authentic; what people see is what they get. You refuse to play a role. Living inauthentically will take a toll on your mental health. God created you to be one authentic person, being who you are where you are. The way to a fulfilling life is laying down your pride and living from His goodness.

THINK IT OVER >>>

What was the most significant part of Sunday's message to you?

How would you differentiate goodness from niceness or kindness?

What does it mean to say that goodness flows from consistency and character?

Creation ceases to be good when it ceases to reflect God. The goodness of creation is found in both the character of God and His deeds. Think about this and then give some examples.

God is the original definition of good. For us it is an added quality, but for Him it is His essence. Consider and discuss.

Goodness is simply the fulfillment of God's purposes. If this is true, how does it define the quality, character, and actions of our daily lives?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

Why is speaking the truth in love so difficult?

How does withholding truth hurt relationships, even if we are trying to protect?

When you are tempted to not speak the truth, is it more often because of a need for control or approval? Something else?

Your kids will do what you do more than what you say. You teach the difference between honesty and dishonesty by the way you keep your promises. How has this happened in your own circles?

How do you separate your character from your emotions in a positive way?

Living an inauthentic life, one way in one place and another way in another place, will eventually take a huge toll on your life. How does inauthentic living come from a place of self-preservation and pride? What can we do about it?

NEXT STEPS

1. Ask God to give you discernment on any areas of life where you are not living authentically, speaking the truth in love, or keeping promises.
2. Ask forgiveness for anyone your inconsistency has hurt.
3. Start a new habit of asking God each day for the fruit of goodness to overflow in your life in these ways.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

Bottom Line: Our goodness is found in the goodness of God.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Monday: Ephesians 2:10

Tuesday: Galatians 6:10

Wednesday: Matthew 5:15-16

Thursday: Ephesians 4:29

Friday: Matthew 7:11

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)