

# FRUIT OF THE WEEK: GOODNESS

**Romans 12:9** *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good”*

Our culture today tends to toss around the word “good” a lot. We easily attach it to things that please us on any level, whether it be a burger, movie, workout, game, test grade, song, etc. We’re also quick to attach the word to people and describe someone as a “good parent,” “good teacher,” or “good friend.”

But the impact of the word “good” becomes much larger when we make the statement, “he/she is a *good person*.” That statement means we’re no longer describing the quality of someone’s work skills or talent but we’re describing the very essence of their character. We’re not saying someone is simply good *at* something, we’re saying they are genuinely good in heart. And that is exactly the kind of goodness Paul is referring to as part of the Fruit of the Spirit.

Have you ever thought to yourself what quality makes someone a “good” person? Or what does it mean for someone to do something out of the “goodness of their heart?” I think we can look to God (our perfect example) to help answer those questions because as we know and love to say: *“God is good, All the time! All the time, God is good!”*

The Bible frequently reminds us of God’s goodness and righteousness. Listen to how Moses describes God in **Deuteronomy 32:4**, *“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”* Moses touched on an important quality of goodness: doing the right thing. Not only is God faithful, trustworthy, and generous, but God also does no wrong.

True biblical goodness means being committed to doing the right thing in the sight of God even if it costs you.<sup>1</sup> Jesus knows exactly what that feels like. He never opted to take the easy way out but rather he stayed committed to doing what was right - doing the will of the Father - and remained obedient all the way to the cross. The goodness of Jesus costs him his life. But that same goodness also gave us all hope.

Think about that next time you feel tempted to cheat on a test, lie to your parents, talk bad about your friend, or participate in harmful acts. Think about that next time you see someone in need of food, clothes, or a helping hand. Being good in heart may cost you, but it’s always worth the price. What we do shows who we are and who we want to be. Our goodness comes from the life of Christ within us. So invite him in and cling to all that is good!

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<sup>1</sup> Christopher J.H. Wright, *Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Growing in Christlikeness*, (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017) 101.