

Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

Goodness Is Fundamental

by Ken Weliever

“Are you a good person?”

According to an online article by Kelly Allen and discussed in detail on Twitter and Reddit, there is an easy way to tell.

Allen opines, “What You Do With Your Shopping Cart When You’re Done With It Says A Lot About You.”

The article points out that while it’s not illegal, nor will you suffer any consequences to abandoning your cart in the grocery store parking lot, a good person will do the right thing and leave the cart in the designated area.

By that standard, I will admit that there are times when I have not been a good person.

While this test may seem somewhat superficial, there are many small acts of kindness in which we can demonstrate goodness to others. Opening the door for a stranger. Saying thank you, you’re welcome, and excuse me when appropriate. Allowing someone to turn in front of us when waiting at a traffic light.

Goodness is fundamental to the Christian’s character as he/she develops the fruit of the Spirit. Paul says so in Galatians 5:22-24.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

By Biblical definition “goodness” describes the constitution of one’s character that has a beneficial effect. Goodness involves moral qualities that are honorable. Barclay says it is “closely connected to kindness” which we discussed last week. Wiersbe observes that goodness “is love in action.” By that standard the 15 qualities of 1 Corinthians 13 will help us measure our goodness.

We would also evaluate our goodness by considering the life of Christ. Luke says he “went about doing good” (Ax. 10:34). There is an innate understanding of what it means to “do good” as Paul often commanded (Gal. 6:10; 1Tim. 6:18; Heb.13:16).

An example of goodness is illustrated in a first century disciple named Barnabas. The Bible says, “he was a good man” (Acts 11:24). We see his goodness in at least three ways:

#1Generosity.

When fellow Christians were in need, he sold his property and brought the proceeds to the apostles to provide for his brethren (Acts 4:23-32). Goodness motives us to be

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - December 10

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

charitable in helping others. The Hebrew writer reminds us, "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased (13:16).

#2 Gladness.

When Barnabas came to Antioch and saw the good work other brethren had accomplished, he realized it was by "the grace of God," and "he was glad." (Acts 11:23). Goodness is not jealous over other's success, nor is it in competition with their ministry. Goodness rejoices with those who rejoice (Rom. 12:12).

#3 Encouragement.

The name Barnabas means "son of encouragement." He encouraged the Antioch Christians "that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord." Good people are encouragers. They lift up. Compliment. Embolden. Reassure. And strengthen.

Our goodness ought not to be for selfish motives, forced obligation, or ungodly gain. We should be good, because God is good. Because we are led by the Spirit. Because we are called by a higher calling and nobler motives.

Goodness is doing the right thing for the right reason.

Psychologist Dr. Phil Stack in his book "Being Good: A Medley of Love," observes that human beings are "uniquely valuable, special, and important" because they are "created in the image of God." Since goodness is God's nature, this virtue ought to flow through us. Phil asks, "How can we increase the flow of God's goodness into a needy world? By knowing where to be good, when to be good, how to be good, and why to be good."

Christians know the where, when, how, and why of goodness because they "walk in the spirit,"

instead of "fulfilling the lusts of the flesh."

Finally, remember what made the Good Samaritan good was that he demonstrated the fruit of goodness.

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jay Parker's father has cancer. His mother has had some recent health problems as well.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment.

Alton Judy from Pflugerville had a successful surgery for his cancer.

Dinah Williams is having some issues with her legs from diabetes.

Jean Smith had a fall and is not doing well.

Marcia Neuhaus

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Jean Smith, Dinah Williams

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints," (Ephesians 6:18)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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