

Goodness

Scripture used: [Galatians 5:22-23 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Pastor Hurmon gave the latest sermon in our series “Peel: What’s Under Your Skin?”, which focuses on the fruit of the Holy Spirit. We are trying to understand all the ways that God’s character breaks loose in our lives to form and shape us. When we display these positive behaviors as a result of the Spirit’s work - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - we know that we are drawing closer to God. This week Pastor Hurmon examined what goodness truly means, and how it might show up in our lives. We learned about examples of real people who demonstrate the path from brokenness to goodness: the reformed missionary Saint Paul; the deaf and blind anti-war activist Helen Keller; the Pakistani humanitarian Malala Yousafzai; and Mohammad Bzeek, who runs an orphanage for terminally ill children. Each person demonstrates the power of goodness in the world, and this same goodness is what God desires to express through our lives, particularly when we learn to rely more and more on God!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Biblical Goodness is unique.** Goodness means acting toward others the way that God acts toward us. The gratitude we have toward God should inspire us to expressing unconditional love.
 - a. **God demonstrates goodness to us.** One of the most powerful summaries of Christianity is [John 3:16-17 \(NLT\)](#). This clearly captures the essence of who Jesus is: the promised messiah who intercedes on our behalf so we can claim eternal life. This is pure goodness, and it provides us with the model that we can imitate in our behavior.
 - b. **Biblical Goodness involves four traits.** These should mark the way that we treat others. We will fall short of perfection, of course, but that is not our goal. We are all works in progress, which means we should strive to express these traits a little more each day. Goodness will soon start to “leak out” of us!
 - i. **Generosity.** We can give freely knowing that God is our provider.
 - ii. **Sacrifice.** We can give up things we love for things we love even more.
 - iii. **Courage.** We can do the right thing even if it isn’t popular or easy.
 - iv. **Honoring God.** We can act in ways that reflect God’s heart and God’s will for humanity and Creation.
- 2) **God works through our brokenness to create goodness.** Many Christians like to quote [Phillippians 4:13 \(NIV\)](#): “I can do all things through God who gives me strength.” But we can’t forget verse 12, where Paul describes how he often lived a life of hardship and brokenness. It was this difficult period that transformed him into a force for righteousness. God broke Paul, internally, gradually, and inevitably. Then Paul made the choice to trust in God. This same transformation is available to each of us!
- 3) **We grow in goodness by relying on God in small ways every day.** Goodness isn’t based on anything we do for ourselves. It is something that comes from God, and emerges from a relationship with Him. Goodness comes from relying on God! There are countless opportunities for us to draw closer to God: in daily prayer, in weekly church attendance, and in everyday life. But one of the most important decisions we make is to lean into God when we struggle with life and keep trusting Him, rather than believing the lie that when life is hard, God must have left us or is out to get us.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Goodness means imitating God, because God is good. We naturally imitate Him as we grow our relationship with Him. What are some examples that come to mind of generosity, self-sacrifice, courage, and honoring God?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - From Saint Paul to Malala Yousafzai, people who exhibit goodness all reflect God’s Spirit. Like a butterfly coming out of its cocoon, they went through a difficult period in order to emerge to express God’s beauty (reflect on [Romans 8:35-39](#)). Where do you feel like God is calling you to grow? Is your response to rely on yourself, or on God? Why?
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon asked us to pray to God “Holy Spirit, grow in and through my broken places!” As we notice opportunities to do good, let us act! And if you want help in being sensitive to daily opportunities to do good, join over 600 members of NBCC as we cultivate the fruit of the Holy Spirit by signing up for [the PEEL Challenge!](#)