



Introduction

We're in a five-week series titled *Fresh Fruit*, and contemplating the "fruits of the Spirit" mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. Our big takeaway in this series is about how we can bring incredible things into the world in 2021 when we're in connection with God.

So that we can tackle all of the "fruits" listed in this passage, the preaching team and the group curriculum will alternate topics (see calendar listed at the end). This week, we're exploring the topic of goodness.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/messages

Share Your Story

1. "Goodness." What in the world is that to you? How would you define that?

Hear God's Story

1. According to Galatians 5:22, one of the "fruits of the Spirit" (i.e. how we know if we're in-step with God) is growing in a spirit of goodness. To help us understand what this is, let's take a look at how God's goodness is most clearly seen in His dealings with others. Read the following verses, then answer: What does all of this tell us about the goodness of God?
Psalms 23:6; 68:10; 73:1; 119:65; 145:9
2. After exploring how God's goodness is best seen in the context of community, would you say goodness is mainly an external thing that's action-defined?
3. In ancient times it was a normative belief that goodness came from within the individual, rather than just through our outward actions. Let's explore this more. Compare and contrast the following verses, then answer: What's one thing that needs to change in your heart to better allow goodness to be more genuine, rather than just an act?
Mark 7:14-23; Matthew 12:33-35
4. When seeing God through the lens of what we've been talking about, what challenges you the most about all of this?

Create a New Story

1. What's one practical action step you're going to take this week to live out this lesson?

Further Studies: Reviewing the Context

We've been honing in on Paul's fruits of the Spirit, but let's take a moment to review the context he wrote these in then discuss with a refreshed perspective. Read Galatians 5:13-26 straight through.

DISCUSS

1. How does reading the literary context of the fruits of the Spirit in 5:22-23 inform your understanding of them?
2. What do you think the one big takeaway is that Paul wanted to drive home to his readers in this section of his letter?
3. If someone read this and then asked you, "Okay, so why's all of this important?" How would you answer?
4. How does what we've discussed using Galatians 5:13-26 help bring you closer to God?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

Calendar for Current Series

#1: Week of 01/03	Sermon: Love	Life Groups: Love
#2: Week of 01/10	Sermon: Joy	Life Groups: Peace
#3: Week of 01/17	Sermon: Kindness	Life Groups: Goodness
#4: Week of 01/24	Sermon: Patience	Life Groups: Faithfulness
#5: Week of 01/31	Sermon: Self-Control	Life Groups: Gentleness

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com