

“Our people must learn to do good ...” Titus 3:14 (NLT)

1. Master Your **Bible**

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right.” 2 Timothy 3:16 (TLB)

2. Guard Your Mind—Be **Discriminating**

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.” Matthew 6:22 (NIV)

“But if your eye is clouded with evil thoughts and desires, you are in deep spiritual darkness. ...” Matthew 6:23 (LB)

3. Develop **Convictions**

“... Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” Romans 12:9 (NIV)

“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”
—Edmund Burke

4. Muster the Courage to be **Different**

“... do not imitate what is evil but what is good. ...” 3 John 11 (NIV)

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, ...” Romans 12:2 (NLT)

5. Meet with Other **Believers**

“Let us not give up meeting together, ...” Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” John 17:15 (NIV)

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

GOODNESS
“Fruit Of The Spirit”
Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. ...” Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

The fruit of the Holy Spirit is what the Holy Spirit does inside of us that gets exhibited outside of us.

Key Thoughts:

- Salvation is not reformation but **regeneration**.
- Changes in us are not due to harder efforts on our part but to the indwelling **presence** and **power** of the Holy Spirit.
- The transformation in our lives is not due to our striving, rather by our **surrendering** to the Work and Presence of the Holy Spirit in us.

GOODNESS

The Christian lifestyle is to be a lifestyle of **goodness**.

I. **THE PROBLEMS—It’s not our nature to be good.**

1. The Bible teaches that we are not **inherently good**.

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, ...” Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)

“As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to Him and fell on his knees before Him. ‘Good teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’”
“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.” Mark 10:17-18 (NIV)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 (NIV)

2. History tells us that **personal evil** dwells in us.

3. Children teach us that even little human beings have an innate tendency to do **wrong**.

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.” Jeremiah 13:23 (NIV)

II. THE INVITATION—We are invited to **squeeze** the fruit.

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit ... Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.” Matthew 7:15-20 (NIV)

Goodness Implies:

1. **Uprightness** of heart and life
2. Spirit-created **morals**

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”
Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

3. Spiritual excellence

“But, ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. If you do this, you will make him feel guilty and ashamed’. Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil with good.” Romans 12:20-21 (GWT)

III. WHY GOODNESS IS SO IMPORTANT

1. Because we were created in Christ for **good works**.

“God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that He has prepared for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:10 (GWT)

2. Because we are called to **imitate** what is good.

“Dear friend, never imitate evil, but imitate good. The person who does good is from God. The person who does evil has never seen God.”
3 John 1:11 (GWT)

3. We are called to walk in a manner **worthy** of the Lord.

“... so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” Colossians 1:10 (NASB)

IV. BARNABAS—A Profile of Goodness

“He (Barnabas) was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, ...”
Acts 11:24 (NIV)

1. He surrendered and submitted his **cash** to Christ.

“Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.” Acts 4:36-37 (NIV)

2. He served the ministry needs of the **church**.

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon ...” Acts 13:1 (NIV)

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace ...” 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

3. He was an **encouragement** to other believers.

“But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. ...” Acts 9:27 (NIV)

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.” Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

4. He spoke good news to **spiritually lost** people.

“He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.” Acts 11:24 (NIV)