

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Doing Good, Being Good & Kind

How are you? It's a very common greeting we're often asked

- *It's not uncommon the reply "Good" with a smile*
- *We're often blessed that someone cared enough to ask.*

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Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

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God's law is simply the way things really are

- *And He is kind enough to tell us how it all works*
- *Even how fruit is grown and its purpose*

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God made everything that is

- ***John 1:3***, All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

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The laws of physics are God's laws.

- *That's how He made the things He created to work*
- *His moral laws are how He made people to work*
- *(Sin was not made, it was chosen by created beings)*

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Physics reveals that for every action there is an equal & opposite reaction

- *God authored action is **for** something.*
- *Reaction is the reverse, or opposite action...*
- *In both God's **physical** & **moral** laws*

For every loving virtue of God...

- *The enemy has an opposite reaction against it*
- ***Love/Hate, Joy/Sorrow, Faith/Fear, Kindness/Cruelty, Goodness/Evil***
- *Everything in opposition to God's moral ways is evil, and is sin*

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Evil has a target it wants to hinder or destroy!

- ***God's goodness in our life; yours, mine & ours together...***
- ***Loving relationship*** with God, each other & everyone else
- ***Matthew 22:37-40 & John 13:34***

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Remember – God doesn't play defense! (Matt. 16:18)

- *Neither do we in His behalf!!*
- *God's goodness is not passive*
- *We actively cultivate fruit to be offered to other people*

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If & when the enemy tries to hinder or oppose us...

- *Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.** (Romans 12:21)*
- ***"You are the light of the world." Light displaces darkness. ALWAYS!!!***

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Luke 10:19, "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

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How did Jesus use His authority to dispatch the enemy?

- **Matthew 4:1-11 & Luke 4:1-13**
- Luke was a Gentile. All who are Christ's have the same power available
- We don't go hunting the enemy – Francis Schaeffer
- If he's in our **God authored path**, that's his problem.
- Our response is to do as Jesus did... or by simply ignoring him as irrelevant.

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What is evil? What kept Israel from entering the promised land?

- **Hebrews 3:12-13**, Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you **an evil heart of unbelief** in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through **the deceitfulness of sin**.

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Unbelief is evil, and sin against God

- Unbelief believes God is **not good**

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Genesis 3:1, Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "**Has God indeed said**, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

- He entices us to believe God is **not for us**
- He accuses God of withholding the truth & keeping us down
- He tempts us to believe that **God is not good**

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Luke 4:1-13, Every temptation offered to Christ was a distortion of God's word

- Knowing & believing God's word is **our authority over every unbelief**
- Many churches have gone astray attempting to redefine God's word...
- **The revealed goodness of who God is & who He is in us**

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Several of last week's scriptural examples of "**kindness**"

- Used the same word also translated as "**goodness**"
- Some translations use the different of the two in the same verse

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Romans 2:4, Or do you despise the riches of **His kindness/goodness**, restraint, and patience, not recognizing that **God's kindness/goodness** is intended to lead you to repentance?

- Is someone confused? No. They are both true without violating each other

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They are two sides of the same coin, stamped with God's image

- **Kindness is good, and Goodness is kind**
- Neither translation is incorrect

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Other expressions of goodness are about "**being good**" and "**doing good**"

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Luke 6:35, "But love your enemies, **do good**, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is **kind/good** to the unthankful and evil."

- "**do good**" is spot on, "**doing good**"
- "**kind/good**" is "Useful, excellent character... with gentleness"

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II Thessalonians 1:11, Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the **good** (to **do good**) pleasure of His **goodness** (to **be good**) and the work of faith with power

I Peter 2:15, For this is the will of God, that by **doing good** you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men

I Peter 3:16-17, having a **good** (demonstrated) **conscience**, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your **good conduct** in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for **doing good** (being seen doing good) than for doing evil.

(Holman) However, **do this with gentleness and respect**, keeping your conscience clear, so that when you are accused, those who denounce your **Christian life** (good conduct) will be put to

shame. For it is better to suffer for **doing good**, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Galatians 5:22-23, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

In Matthew 19 Jesus was asked, "What good must I do to have eternal life?"

- Jesus answered, "There is only One who is good."

How are you?

- Let's answer "good" with confidence
- Having a "Useful, excellent character... with gentleness"
- Handling people with care, good will & understanding
- Being good & kind to everyone, even the unthankful & evil
- Overcoming evil with the goodness of God in us, whether received or not