

STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 5:16-25; 2 Thessalonians 1:11; James 1:17

“Living by the Spirit: The Fruit of Goodness”

- 1) Share your definition of “good.”

- 2) The Greek word God’s Word uses for “goodness” is “a generous character in uprightness of the heart that is so powerfully energized in expressing itself in active good that it will not spare sharpness and rebuke in order to produce good in others. How can “good” come out of sharpness and rebuke?

- 3) Jesus told the rich young man that we can’t do anything to be “good” enough to be right with God in order to earn “eternal life” on our own. What are the ways we try to be good enough to earn eternal life?

- 4) How do we see the concept of “good” or “goodness” defined in our culture? Discuss why the scriptural concept of “goodness” is immensely deeper, greater in scope and much more powerful in effect – but much more restricted than how we commonly define “good.”

- 5) Our God is the source of all that can truly be called *good*. All others have degrees of *goodness* in all the universe are measured against the absolute standard of God’s *goodness*. What affect should this truth have on our efforts to do good or be good? Discuss the role of the goodness of God’s love in all of this.

- 6) The context of the “fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5 has to do with humble character that produces the fruit of unity and service. Discuss what the spiritual fruit of “goodness” you see manifested by Jesus when he healed the deaf and mute man could and should look like in our lives and in our church.

- 7) What is the relationship between the statement “*All things that are truly good find their source in God*” and Paul’s words from 2 Thessalonians 1:11: “*To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power*”?

- 8) **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:** Discuss the implications (personally and for the church) of . . .

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17