

Goodness and Contentment

Discovering God's goodness and learning to be satisfied in Him

The Godly Man Course - Lesson 8 | Goodness and Contentment

"But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment." **1 Timothy 6:6**

FUNCTIONAL DEFINITION OF GOODNESS

Goodness is finding contentment in whatever God has given.

A) Discover God's Goodness

- A man discovers God's goodness by spending time with God. God Himself is greater than the good things He gives.
- Creation displays beauty, uniqueness, design, order, color, harmony, pleasantness, and provision - reminders of God's goodness.
- Genesis 1 repeatedly declares God's creation "good," ending with the whole creation declared "very good."

B) Good and Evil

- God did not create evil as something proceeding from His moral nature. Because God is good, what He creates is good.
- The existence of evil should not erase our ability to see and delight in God's goodness.
- The believer learns to face suffering with confidence in God rather than allowing difficult questions to destroy trust in His character.

C) Contentment and Temptation

- Material things cannot satisfy the deepest needs of the heart. The godly man finds his chief delight in God Himself.
- Psalm 73:25-28 portrays a man who desires God above earthly attractions, accepts his frailty, finds strength in the Lord, and calls God's nearness his good.
- Discontentment gives temptation its bait. Contentment in God weakens the attraction of the world.

D) Content in Difficult Circumstances

- Paul's contentment rested in confidence that nothing entered his life outside God's notice and care.
- Trust in God's hand allows a believer to be satisfied whether circumstances are easy or difficult.
- God's goodness does not depend on our circumstances; our circumstances become another place to learn His goodness.

Personal Reflections

- Where has God’s goodness been especially clear in your life?
- Which good thing is most likely to become more important to you than God Himself?
- What present circumstance is testing your contentment?

Study Questions

1. List at least five marks of God’s goodness visible in creation.

2. Why could evil not proceed from God’s moral nature?

3. Explain the “door” illustration: how can good things become a barrier to drawing nearer to God?

4. State several principles of a godly man from Psalm 73:25-28.

5. What was Paul’s secret of contentment even when he suffered need?
