

Is God Good/Am I Good?

Moral ly pure	Faithful
Hol y	Loving
Righteous	Benevolent
Just	Gracious
Genuine	Merciful
	Persistent

God is good

God is not good Displays anger/wrath

Punishes wickedness

Permits evil

Permits suffering

If God is God and good , why does evil and wickedness exist?

1. Since evil exists and God is al l powerful, he must not be all good (skeptic).
2. Since evil exists and God is all good, he must not be all powerful (Brightman, Bertucci, Kushner).
3. Since ev il exists and God is all good and all powerful, there exi sts an equal and opposite force (Ancient Greek, Zoroastrianism).
4. S ince evil exists and God is all good and all powerful, he can and will destroy evil one day (2 Pet 3:7-12; Rev 19:1-2, 11-21; 20:7-15; 21:4-8).

Is God to blame for evil?

- Everything God created was good as a refl ection of the character of its C reator—in fact, very good .

- “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day” (Gen 1:31) .

- “For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving” (1 Tim 4:4).

- In creation the Sovereign God created responsible humans to have moral

choice.

- In the independent exercise of that moral choice the first humans caused evil (Gen 3:6-7; Rom 5:12). They didn't choose evil over God; they chose themselves over God—the issue is idolatry; the consequences are evil.

- Evil is not a thing and does not have an existence of its own—it is negation of good; the absence of good. God created all things (Col 1:16); evil is not a thing.

Is God not good because he punishes wickedness, evil? Does his anger toward injustice, brutality, and depravity make Him not good?

The definition of bad? Anything that opposes a good God. We are not only bad but dead (Eph 2:1-3)! God often removes what is already dead and condemned and destructive toward His purposes to rescue people (Jn 3:18).

- God waited patiently 400 years before using Israel to deport wickedness from Canaan (Gen 15:13-14).

- God's kindness, patience, tolerance offers all people opportunity for repentance (Rom 2:1-11).

- God punished himself at Calvary so evil could be defeated for us (2 Cor 5:17-21).

Am I good? (Matt 19:16-30)

The Great Faith Deficiency Hurdle

Somewhere from within us comes this idea that we actually possess the capacity to pass judgement favourably on our own moral acceptability.

“What good thing must I do?” (v 16)

“There is only One who is good” (v 17)

Until and unless you settle by faith that God alone is good, you will rely on your own “goodness” to get you home.

Those who rely on their own goodness feel unsettled in their confidence that their goodness is good enough.

“What do I still lack?”

His god was his wealth.

His ticket to eternal life was his own goodness.

Until a person exchanges their own goodness for God's goodness and their own idols for God alone, they will continue to trust in their own ability to be good, to question the goodness of God, and to feel deficient in spiritual confidence (21).

The blessings of God's common grace can be huge obstacles to our salvation if we misjudge their origin—he wasn't rich because he was “good”; he was rich because God is gracious to the just and the unjust (22-26).

To those who trust in God's goodness alone and follow his way, beware of being “good”

just for what you can get—the price tags in heaven are switched in favour of those who serve/obey for love not reward (27-30).

Now consider the goodness of God to Calvary Baptist Church 2014.

How will we settle who is God and our response to his goodness?

What will our love look like in 2015 ?

(Matt 19:29)