

God's Character: Good

1. How do you consider someone is good? Carefully read Psalms 100:5 and Matthew 19:16-17 and share your observations of what these passages consider what is good.

For Yahweh is good;
His lovingkindness endures forever
And His faithfulness, generation unto generation. (Ps 100:5, LSB)

And behold, someone came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why are you asking Me about what is good? There is only One who is good; but if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." (Matt 19:16-17, LSB)

2. Examine Matthew 5:44-45 and Mark 10:18. How does this affect your understanding of good?

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (Matt 5:44-45, LSB)

3. What does God consider as good?

Therefore, having girded your minds for action, being sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, not being conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your conduct; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

And if you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your sojourn, knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold from your futile conduct inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (1 Pet 1:13-19, LSB)

4. Why is God's character good?

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. (Mark 10:18, LSB)

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Teacher Notes

The noun "good" is impossible to define unless the standard of measurement is defined. This introductory lesson explores this issue but stops before the exploration of the differences between relative and absolute moral standards. This lesson is intended to help the student with their skill of observation and logical thought process.

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To help the student with his observation, ask questions to focus on certain details.

In Psalms 100:5, God is considered good for His loving behavior towards Believers.

In Matthew 19:16-17, Jesus states that people are considered good if they are Believers ("wish to enter into life") and behave in keeping with God's commandments.

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Observe carefully that "good" is contrasted with "evil" which implies right or wrong behavior (morals) and ultimately a reflection of one's character.

Explain to the student that the determination of righteous is made by God. Only God can determine who is righteous or not. More importantly is the observation that "good and "evil" is paired with God's determination of "righteous and unrighteous."

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Observe that God associates holiness with faith in Jesus Christ and behavior in accordance with God's word. When God commands "be holy for I am holy," God is saying "being good" is how one is set apart for God.

4. Why is God's character good?

And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. (Mark 10:18, LSB)

What makes this verse so hard to understand? Why is God morally good and Jesus is not? What is the difference between Jesus the Son and God the Father?

There are two things known about Jesus at this time that could provide clarity to this issue:

1. Jesus has a perishable human body tainted by Adam's sin.
2. Jesus says, "The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father abiding in Me does His works" (John 14:10).

Here is where some logic can be introduced:

1. The moral standard for good is determined by God and His word.
2. Moral goodness, holiness, includes the removal of all sin including the human body.
3. In consideration of the above, when God says, "be holy for I am holy," He is indicating that God's moral standard is embedded in the very nature of God.

God is morally good, because His character is intrinsically free of sin. And only those who are holy can approach God, because sin cannot come into the presence of God.