

Lesson: (#11) FRUIT OF GOODNESS

This is the eleventh lesson in the series entitled, Fruit of Holy Spirit.

Goodness is the sixth fruit of the Holy Spirit listed in Gal.5:22 (agape, chara, eirene, makrothumia, chrestotes, and **agathosune**). The Greek word agathosune is used some 107 times in the NT.

The formation of Greek words is important to their meaning. Makrothumia consists of two Greek words (macros) [long] and (thumos) [agitated temper / suffering] Thus the combination means longsuffering or patience.

The suffix added to a word is also important, as it is in English. The Greek suffix (tes) on the end of Chrestotes emphasizes the agent of the kindness of God. The Greek suffix (sune) on the end of agathosune emphasizes the quality of character of the goodness of God. The English suffix (ness) on the end of kindness and goodness adds a similar idea of quality.

Chrestotes and Agathosune – “Trench, following, Jerome, distinguishes between chrestotes and agathosune in that the former describes the kindlier aspects of goodness; the latter includes also the sterner qualities by which doing good to others is not necessarily by gentle means. He illustrates the latter by the act of Christ in cleansing the temple, Matt.21:12-13, and in denouncing the scribes and Pharisees, 23:13-29; but chrestotes by His dealings with the penitent woman, Luke 7:37-50.” (Vines, Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.274)

“Lightfoot regards chrestotes as a kindly disposition towards others; agathosune as a **kindly activity on their behalf.**” (Vines, pg.274)

We will study four aspects of Goodness, as a Fruit of the Holy Spirit being produced to and through the spiritual Church Age Believer (CAB) (Gal.5:16, 22).

1. God alone establishes the norm and standard of divine good (agathos)

(Luke 18:19) “Why do you call Me **good**? No one is **good** but God alone.” (Jesus to the Rich Young Ruler)

Divine good (Agathos) is part of the character of God. Therefore divine good is unattainable apart from association with the character of God.

There is another Greek word for good (**kalos**) [intrinsic value or belonging to the essential nature] used with God. For example, **Kalos** is used with the creation of God (Gen.1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25) [bara – to create something out of nothing] (1 Tim.4:4-5).

Both words are used in Luke 8:15 – “And the seed in the good soil (kalos), these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest (kalos) and good (agathos) heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.” (Parable of Sower)

(2 Cor.9:8-9) “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every **good deed**; as it is written, ‘He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness abides for forever.’” (Ps.112:9)

2. Unregenerate mankind cannot produce divine good (agathosune).

(Matt.5:45) “In order that you may become 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.” (Rom.3:10)

(Rom.7:18, 13) “For I know that nothing good (agathos) dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good (kalos) is not.”

Humanistic good works, pagan religion nor Pharisaic legalism can produce agathos (divine good) or Agathosune (divine goodness) (Matt.12:34-35).

God’s goodness is not achieved but received as a gift of God grace through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Rom.10:15) “And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who **bring glad tidings of good things**.’”

(Eph.2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good** works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph.**5-10**; Phil.1:6)

You must be born again with a divine nature and indwelt by the Holy Spirit to produce divine good (1 Pet.1:23; 2 Pet. 1:4; Acts 11:24; Luke 23:50).

3. The Fruit of goodness (agathosune) is produced by walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit

(Gal.5:22) “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law.” (1 Cor.6:19-20)

The Indwelling Holy Spirit produces, supernaturally, divine goodness amidst an evil world. God’s goodness (agathosune) is the antithesis of evil in the world (Acts 26:18; Col.1:13; Rom.12:9; 16:19; 2 Tim.2:21).

4. Divine goodness is a virtue of the spiritual mature Church Age Believer

(Col.1:10) “So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every **good** work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” / **note 4 things**; (Gal.6:6) (Rom.12:2; 15:14)

(2Tim.3:16-17) “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for the training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every **good** work.”

Jesus Christ will award the CAB for the divine production of phase II (CWL) (2 Cor.5:10; Rom.14:10; Eph.6:8).

WARNINGS:

- “But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing **good**.” (2 Thess.3:13)
- “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with **good**.” (Rom.12:21; 1 Thess.5:15; Gal.6:9-10)

PROMISE:

- “And we know that God causes all things to work together for **good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom.8:28; Gen.50:19-20; 1 Thess.5:15-18)