



TAKE ACTION

What do the following verses teach us about the nature of good deeds and our responsibility?

- 1 Timothy 5:9-10
- Galatians 6:10
- *What does “Do not become weary...” imply?*
- 1 Timothy 5:8
- Romans 12:19-21; Luke 6:35
- *How did Jesus give us the ultimate example?*

A case study

George Muller of Bristol, the man who cared for so many orphans in the nineteenth century, was said to demonstrate the fruit of goodness to a remarkable degree. He was once asked what he considered to be the power behind his ministry. He said, “I died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval of blame even of my family and friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved of God.”

How does Muller’s example challenge you?

Why may self-interest prevent goodness developing in our lives?

Do you know of anyone who needs time and help? If so, what can you do?

May it be said of us, as it was of Dorcas in the New Testament, that we are “always doing good and helping the poor” (Acts 9:36)



PRAY IT THROUGH

9 A DAY BECOMING LIKE JESUS

SMALL GROUPS SHEET
WEEK BEGINNING 2 MARCH 2014

7. GOODNESS

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

How would you define goodness?

As a society we have developed an aversion to “do-gooders”. How would you distinguish the idea of “doing good” from this negative stereo-type?



BACKGROUND

These past weeks we have been exploring God’s great purpose in our lives to make us more and more like His Son, Jesus as he produces the fruit of the Spirit in us. Remind yourself of this fruit as you **read Galatians 5:19-24.**

Tonight our focus is GOODNESS.

The Bible uses the word goodness to refer to what is upright and honourable in our moral character. It also uses the word goodness to describe actions that are not only good in themselves but also beneficial to others.



INVESTIGATE

The goodness of God

Note how God is described in the following verses:

- Psalm 107:1
- Psalm 119:68

What are we told about God’s *goodness* in Psalm 23:6?

Sometimes the word translated “good” in our New Testament is translated “generous” (Matt 20:15). Share examples of God’s goodness to you personally.

Jesus is our ultimate example in displaying the fruit of the Spirit. How does Peter summarise the ministry of Jesus in Acts 10:38?

Think of some examples where Jesus showed goodness and a generous spirit even when it was inconvenient.



INVESTIGATE

Created to do good

Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

It’s a very common mistake to think that being good is the way we earn God’s favour. How does verse 8 clear up any confusion?

What does verse 9 tell us about our purpose now as God’s rescued people?
What else is striking about verse 9?



THINK IT THROUGH

It can be overwhelming when we consider all the good that needs to be done in the world. How does Eph 2:9 help us understand our responsibility rightly?

Practicing goodness is simply the outworking of the life of Jesus within us. How does Luke 6:43 help us understand this a bit more?

So if we are struggling to show this fruit of the spirit where do we need to focus?