

The Fruit Of The Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

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Mother's Day – 2nd Service

Longsuffering

Collin Warner

Paul concludes this section by pointing out the inward and outward evidence of someone who is “*walking in the Spirit.*” He refers to this evidence as “*the fruit of the Spirit.*”

The word for fruit is karpos, a word that is often used in the New Testament in its natural sense—that which is produced by the energy of the living organism. It is used here to describe that which is produced in the life of the believer by the energy of the indwelling Holy Spirit... The Holy Spirit works secretly and reveals His presence by the traits of character that Paul now lists.

John Phillips

Notice: The Holy Spirit works inwardly (*secretly*), but displays the “*traits of character*” outwardly!

So, the “*fruit of the Spirit*” is both attitude & action, intention & execution, disposition & deed. The right heart with the wrong action is simply a good intentioned mistake. The wrong motive with the right action is hypocrisy.

But the Holy Spirit works in the heart of the believer to have the right attitude, intention, & disposition, and through the life of the believer to have the right action, execution, and deed.

As believers in Jesus Christ these 9 aspects of God’s divine work in us should be evident in our lives to some extent. Not only *present* in our lives, but ever and always growing as we yield ourselves to Him to work in us and through us.

Today, as Pastor Jack mentioned, is Mother’s day and so we are going to look at three of these fruits in light of the toughest job on planet earth—motherhood.

Now, before some of you gentlemen check-out or pass the buck, let me remind you that for those of you who are married, you ought to listen closely. You and I have been given a task to:

“...sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

Ephesians 5:26b-27

Just as or “in the same way” that Christ has loved the church, you and I are to love our wives! Part of that love is the ministering to and living example of *longsuffering*, for her to follow!

If you’re here today and you’re not married, have no kids, and think this morning won’t apply to you, I would reason with you that:

2 Timothy 3:16–17

¹⁶ **All Scripture** *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ **that the man of God may be complete**, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1. The Reality of Longsuffering

Longsuffering: makrōthumia – Forbearance, Fortitude, Longsuffering, Patience

• This word is a compound word made of 2 Greek words that will help us understand its meaning and apply it to our lives.

Makrōs – (Macro) – Long in distance or time, Long, Far

Thumōs – Fierceness, Indignation, Wrath

The idea is, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we would become those who take a long time to become angry or upset.

The greatest example of this, is the Lord Himself!

Exodus 34:6–7a

6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, **longsuffering**, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7a keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*...”

God is *longsuffering*! And you are God’s then He is in the very process of *conforming you into the image of His Son*. One way He’s doing that is by making you *longsuffering* as well!

Longsuffering is often associated with patience. But the Greek word most often translated ‘patience’ in the N.T. is a different word. That word is the word for **enduring trials or difficulties**. (James 1:2-4)

“**Longsuffering**” is used in another way entirely. Not so much to do with trials, it has to do with remaining patient through mistreatment by another person, withholding retaliation, and responding in love.

In the great chapter on love, look at how Paul begins that section:

1 Corinthians 13:4a

4 Love suffers long and is kind

One of the very first aspects of love, is displayed as it endures through mistreatment and rather than lashing out, responds with *kindness*.

How do you and I respond when we’re mistreated? Do we have the *longsuffering* of the Holy Spirit at work in us? Is it evident?

We all have to deal with **the reality** of opportunities to prove ourselves to be *longsuffering*. I can think of little more, if anything, that gives more opportunity to exercise *longsuffering* than that of motherhood.

So often the work you put in goes unnoticed by people. Even those closest to you. Then, because no one knows of the effort and toil, there may be a lack of appreciation, if you see any at all.

There will be the temptation to become frustrated, burdened, or upset, but God sees all you do. God knows all you’ve done. And He will give you the grace to continue!

2. The Reason For Longsuffering

Why should we strive to be *longsuffering*? Well, the main reason is to be *like* God, but also to benefit those around us!

The idea of *longsuffering* carries with it the bearing patiently with the faults or weaknesses of others. Again, a fitting description of motherhood. Humans innately have many faults and weaknesses, and in being a mom you cannot –**or should not**– avoid these in your children, but come alongside them to lift them up! Paul makes this idea of *bearing with one another* clear in at least 2 places, and in both he ties the idea of *longsuffering* to “*bearing with one another...*”

Ephesians 4:1–2

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to **walk worthy of the calling** with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with **longsuffering**, bearing with one another in love...

Bearing – Endure, Bear with, Put up with. *To endure something difficult.*

Colossians 3:12–13a

12 Therefore, **as the elect of God**, holy and beloved, **put on** tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, **longsuffering**; 13 bearing with one another...

These verses say essentially the same thing, but it’s worth repeating: That *longsuffering* carries with it the idea of **enduring with one another** even when it’s a difficult, hard, and long season.

In both of these verses Paul calls upon the believer to have to exercise “*longsuffering*” **as a key aspect of the new life we have in Christ.**

We are called to “*walk*” in and “*put on*” *longsuffering*... “**For what reason?**” To bear with one another in love. In doing this, we give a great display of **God’s longsuffering towards us!**

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

And with our actions we affirm the Gospel that we preach and bring Glory to God. So mom, as you bear with your child with *longsuffering*, you display the same patience God displayed as He waited for us to respond to the Gospel!

This happens as your motives and actions come together, even in discipline at times, for the benefit of your child.

3. The Result of Longsuffering

What I mean by that is:

“*How do you and I come to the place where we are longsuffering people?*”

AND

“*What is the end result of being longsuffering?*”

We gain insight on *how to become longsuffering* from Paul as he prayed for the Colossians:

Colossians 1:11

11 strengthened with all might, **according to His glorious power**, for all patience and **longsuffering with joy**;

Paul prayed that they would be “*strengthened...according to His [God’s] glorious power, for...longsuffering with joy.*”

Where does this strength come from? We see a similar prayer in **Ephesians 3:16** where he prays this:

“*be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...*”

We end right back where we started—This is God’s Work in you and through you! As you and I yield ourselves to the power and working of the Holy Spirit, we will “*walk in the Spirit*” and we will bear “*the fruit of the Spirit.*”

Now, the end result of true, Christ-like *longsuffering* is *joy*. As you allow God’s Spirit to work in you and through you, you will have joy! You will display the love of Christ. You will draw others near as you bear with them instead of driving them away as you blow up on them.

Mom – If you’re in a tough season, a difficult time. You’re tired, overwhelmed, beat up and feel down. Maybe with the little ones you feel like your hands are full or you have older ones, and you feel like your hands are empty, I have one last verse for you:

James 5:7–8

7 Therefore be patient [Longsuffering], brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently [Longsuffering] for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 You also be patient [Longsuffering]. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

Right now, you may only see the labor of plowing and sowing, hard work. Well, the day of harvest is coming where the Lord will reward each of you according to your labors.

Kindness

Galatians 5:22b

Mother's Day – Sunday Morning, May 12th, 2024
Dennis Hostetler

Introduction

We now come to the 5th divine attribute out of the 9 within this passage of Scripture and sandwiched between the two bread ends as it were, of longsuffering and goodness we have kindness at the center of this triad.

When we come to Proverbs 31:10-31, it gives insight regarding a model wife and mother often referred to as the Virtuous Woman. This passage of Scripture is written in the literary genre of a Hebrew Acrostic poem – this means each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet, from Aleph to Tav or we might say from A to Z in English. Acrostic poems in the Bible would have been an aid in memory, but also, more importantly, a way of showing the completeness of coverage of the subject being addressed.

In verse 26 of this chapter, it is said of the virtuous wife and mother:

Proverbs 31:26

²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of *kindness*.

Elliot's Commentary says:

"Kindness is the law by which she regulates all her words."

Barnes' Notes on the Bible Says:

"The words which come from the lips of the true wife are as a law giving guidance and instruction to those that hear them; but the law is not proclaimed in its sterner aspects, but as one in which "mercy tempers justice," and love, the fulfilling of the law, is seen to be the source from which it springs."

The Pulpit Commentary says:

"Her language to those around her is animated and regulated by love. As mistress of a family, she has to teach and direct her dependents, and she performs this duty with gracious kindness and ready sympathy."

But what then is meant by kindness? And where do we look for the source & fount of authentic kindness in the world?

Romans 2:4 (NASB)

⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

The Greek New Testament word that Paul uses for the fruit of Kindness in Galatians 5:22 & here in Romans 2:4 is:

Kindness: "*Chrēstotēs*" – or khray-stot'-ace

Moral excellence or goodness, gentleness, benignity, and simply kindness.

The word kindness / khray-stot'-ace appears 10 times in the pages of the New Testament.

In Romans 11:22 the Kindness of God is contrasted with the Severity of God, and God's disposition is that He would much rather show His Kindness to humanity, but a repeated rejection of God's overtures to fallen and sinful humanity will result in a display of His severity rather than His Kindness.

The Hebrew Old Testament equivalent to the New Testament *khray-stot'-ace*

is:

Kindness: “*Chesed*” –

Mercy, or Merciful-Kindness, favor, goodness, pity, benignity.

The one demonstrating ‘*Chesed*’, can also be said to be demonstrating piety or zealousness.

The word appears 251 times in the Old Testament, very often translated mercy in English Bibles, but never losing its central core tenet of Kindness. So, this same word is used regarding the virtuous wife & mother of Proverbs 31:26, who is said to have the Law of Kindness (‘*Chesed*’) upon her tongue; And where would she have learned this merciful-kindness from?

Exodus 34:5-7

5 Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.^[SEP]

Jewish Rabbis have derived 13 attributes of God from this passage, but for our purposes notice in verse 7 where it says God keeps ‘*Mercy*’ for 1,000’s (of generations); again it’s the word “*Chesed*” or merciful kindness. What is very important for us to observe is that God is giving a self-description & definition of Himself in emphasizing His *Chesed*-Kindness and how everlasting it is.

The Lord first proclaimed these attributes about Himself in Exodus chapter 20 as Moses first received the 10 Commandments, and there started off by emphasizing His attributes of holiness & justice, & concluding with a description of His Kindness. But now, here in Exodus 34, immediately following the punishment for Israel’s backsliding with the sin of the Golden Calf, the order of God’s attributes is reversed, with the attributes of Kindness put in the front & the attributes of justice put at the conclusion, indicating that Israel, and by extension all of humanity, are prone to wander and desperately need God’s merciful kindness and forgiveness that only He can provide!

A near verbatim quotation of God’s kindly attributes here from Exodus 34, are repeated by David in the Psalms, by Jonah when God spared Nineveh, by the Prophet Joel when an army overran Jerusalem, and by Nehemiah when the Judeans returned from exile. God’s attribute of Kindness here was like a hyperlinked internet bookmark that Israel often returned to again and again.

So, to this needs to be our regular practice in our lives, to default to the fact that God’s character is loving, it is gracious, and it is supremely kind!

Psalm 136 gives a broad sweep of what God’s Kindness (*Chesed*) means, for each verse concludes with the words: “For His mercy (Kindness) *endures* forever!”

There we see in that Psalm that God both created and sustains the earth because of His Kindness to His people.

Psalm 23:6

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy (“*Chesed*”) shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The word for pursuit here in the famous 23rd Psalm, usually refers to that on an enemy army dogging one's heels, but here David uses the term in a positive matter, to refer to God's unrelenting Kindness in pursuit of Him! There has been hidden hand upon all of our lives, and the "arm" it connects to is God Himself, who has been at work behind the scenes, pursuing us for our good and best interest at heart. Run to Him, who is running after you!

So, it's to the Creator of the Universe we humans must go to, in order to learn what Kindness is. But we understand that humanity being made in God's image & likeness, in some way bears God's moral and spiritual attributes. However, we also know from Scripture that all have sinned & fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) and that we are in desperate need of the pardon that God has provided in the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus (Rom. 5:8).

Yet the doctrine of the Fall of Humanity into sin & his spiritual pollution & depravity does not mean that all people everywhere are as bad as they can possibly be & that everyone commits the worst possible sin of which we are capable. Even in our fallen estate, God in His common grace, has allowed certain Divine Intuitions, pillars of civilization if you will, to preserve our world from complete anarchy. Near the top of that list of the pillars of civilization, stands the family, male & female, husband & wife, father & mother, each with their divinely engineered gender roles hardwired into our DNA & psyche.

So, what is it that's so special about women, and mothers in particular, that Proverbs 31 would emphasize the law of Kindness being on the tongue of the exemplary mother (but not necessarily to the exclusion of the father)?

We know from those who study such things that: Women have better peripheral vision & much better high frequency hearing, while men have greater sensitivity for fine detail & for rapidly moving objects. Men on average have greater body strength, but women have an edge in stamina & verbal ability.

Women are more enthusiastic; men are more assertive.

Men are less agreeable (>COUGH< stubborn), women more sensitive. Women are more aesthetically oriented & men are more interested in ideas. On average Men are more interested in things & women in people.

1 Thessalonians 2:6-7

6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

The wonderful 19th century, Yeshua believing Jewish Bible scholar Alfred Edersheim stated:

"The tenderness of the bond which united Jewish parents to their children appears even in the multiplicity and pictorialness of the expressions by which the various stages of child-life are designated in the Hebrew."

He went on to state that in the Hebrew of the Old Testament there is no fewer than nine (9) different words, each depicting a child at a fresh stage of life, but that 2/3's of these terms referred to stages before the child even reached puberty. It was the tender eye of the Jewish matriarchs of the Old Testament that made such careful observations & developed a rich vocabulary of such diverse terms to refer to children.

In this we see again how absolutely critical Mothers are to God's plan for humanity.

J. R. Miller has stated:

"The woman who makes a sweet, beautiful home, filling it with love and prayer and purity, is doing something better than anything else her hands could find to do beneath the skies. A true mother is one of the holiest secrets of home happiness. God sends many beautiful things to this world, many noble

gifts; but no blessing is richer than that which He bestows in a mother who has learned love's lessons well, and has realized something of the meaning of her sacred calling."

The Scriptures tells us that the God who keeps kindness for 1,000's of generations, that this kindness had its ultimate display in the coming of Jesus:

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the kindness (*"Chrēstotēs"*) and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, **5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

That's what God did in the First Coming of His Son. Scripture further promises us that in His return, that Christ will give us the Kindness He showed to David (Isa. 55:3), to both Jew and Gentile in His Second Coming, which will lead to a glorious restoration of the Earth in His future Millennial Kingdom.

But Ultimately, until then, in the here and now, I believe Kindness can best be described as Love in action. Our intellect is stimulated beyond bounds when we try to comprehend the immensity of God's kindness (Eph. 3:19). The reflection of His kindness in our heart, inspires awe and reverence of Him who is the source of all Kindness.

But don't set up a picnic table and camp out there! James tells us faith without works is dead (James 2:14-16). I want to challenge you this week, to put love into action, by finding someone you can show kindness of God to:

1 John 3:18

14 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

The Lord has not only shown us what Kindness looks like, but He has also given us a directive to show Kindness to others; Micah 6:8 says:

Micah 6:8

11 He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy (*"Chesed"* Kindness), and to walk humbly with your God?

In a world where people are engaging in random acts of cruelty, punching people in the face in New York, throwing people down flights of stairs and filming & uploading such acts online for laughs & clicks, let us as believers return to the roots of our faith when Christians were known to be lovers of the outcast and the hurting, in Jesus name.

This exhortation to Biblical acts of Kindness is actually inscribed on a large tablet, carrying an inscription in gilt letters on the walls of the U.S. Library of Congress:

https://www.loc.gov/static/portals/visit/online-tours/images/jefferson/main-reading-room/02081v_religion_pedantive_standard_300.jpg

In the Bible, Kindness is seen practically demonstrated in many ways. It is seen in Rebekah watering Eleazar's camels (Gen. 24:14), it is Joseph burying Jacob in the Promised Land (Gen. 47:29), it is Rahab hiding the spies (Jos. 2:12), it is Ruth caring for her mother-in-law Naomi (Rth 1:8), and Boaz providing for & marrying Ruth (Rth. 2:20), and in David caring for & providing for Jonathan's disabled son (a potential rival to his throne), named Mephibosheth.

David was very aware that he had received the Kindness of God, and when his realm was finally at peace he asked “/s there not still someone of the house of Saul, to whom I may show the kindness of God?” (2 Samuel 9:3).

Truly in a multitude of seen and invisible ways a mother, as the comforter and nourisher that God has engineered her to be, is someone who is continually seeking out ways to, and actively showing, kindness to her children on a regular basis.

It has been said that a mother’s heart is never her own, but that bits and pieces of it are sown into the lives of her children forever. This is certainly true in my own life; I know I could not be the man I am today without the godly influence of my mother. And so, like the family of Proverbs 31 woman, I want to rise up and call you who are moms, or hope to be moms someday, or are a spiritual mom and mentor to others, I want to rise up and call you blessed, and exhort & encourage you to never cease keeping the law of kindness coming forth from your mouth or radiating out of your life. Because God has ordained it so, and this world needs it. God bless you all!

Goodness Galatians 5:22b

Mother's Day – Sunday Morning, May 12th, 2024
Joel Pickett

Introduction

We now come to what is the 6th divine attribute listed out of the 9 within this passage of Scripture. So far in this 2nd service we have looked at longsuffering, kindness, and finally for us here, goodness.

The first on this list of 9 is love. And this is the first and primary fruit of the Spirit. This word fruit is singular which is to not only emphasize the primacy of love but also to show that these are not to be separated. They aren't like spiritual gifts where one person has one and another person has another.

It has been said before that after love, the following 8 terms describe what love looks like in action. Martin Luther said, "It would have been enough to mention only the single fruit of love, for love embraces all the fruits of the Spirit."

This falls in line with what we find in...

Colossians 3:14

14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Bond: that which ties together, brings together **Perfection:** maturity and completeness

1 Corinthians 13 teaches us that love is the principal thing. Meaning it is that which goes with everything we do. If we have not love, we don't have anything.

And today as we have been working our way through this list of these divine qualities, we are looking at them in light of Mothers' Day and how these are to work themselves out in a mom.

When Paul wrote to Titus, he said this regarding older women teaching the younger...

Titus 2:4

4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Now while there are aspects of love that are innate in a mother put there by God, there are other aspects that apparently must be taught and passed down through godly influence.

And so, these qualities listed here provide for us an excellent model for not only what a godly mother should be but what God desires to produce in every person who walks with Him.

Goodness: "agathōsynē" - ag-ath-o-soo'-nay

the quality of moral sweetness & excellence, uprightness of heart (inward) and life (outward)

There is a strong implication behind this word that it is not a stagnant quality that one possesses but a quality that is actively working itself out. This is not theoretical goodness but practical goodness.

This specific Greek word appears only 4 times in the New Testament. Now the root word is the word "agathos" which is the much more common and the typical word for "good" in the New Testament.

However, this word “agathosune” cannot be found in any secular Greek sources, it seems to be unique to the Biblical Greek. Some think it to be coined by believers as a way to express a kind of goodness that was deeper than anything the world experienced.

The emphasis here is that this is an applied goodness. Not mere goodness to be on the shelf but goodness in operation. *It has been said before that goodness is virtue and holiness in action.*

This goodness is for the benefit of others and not just good for goodness’ sake as the old Santa’s Coming to Town song would tell us.

This word conveys the idea of benevolence and generosity toward someone else when it is not required to do so or even when the person is not deserving of such goodness. It is expressed with no thought of repayment.

There are times we speak of someone as doing something, “*out of the goodness of their heart.*” This is a similar idea to what we find here other than the fact that this goodness is not the result of one’s personal goodness within them but rather the goodness of God in them.

And doesn’t this quality of goodness describe the job of a mother so well? There are so many acts of goodness that a mom does every day in so many ways.

But anything good in her ultimately comes from the Lord. And the same is true for every believer, anything good in us comes from Him.

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

When you trace back any displayed goodness in your life it ultimately came from the God who never changes who the Bible describes as good.

Psalm 16:2

2 *O my soul,* you have said to the Lord, “*You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You.*”

Goodness: attractive or beneficial qualities

We see this kind of goodness displayed by the Samaritan man in Jesus famous parable...

Luke 10:33-35

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’

This man truly went the extra mile as it were. He was caring, selfless, sacrificial. He showed this man goodness.

At times this goodness ought to demonstrate itself even in the face of evilness and wickedness...

Matthew 5:38-42

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ 39 But I tell you not to

resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

The goodness of a mom is willing to overlook a transgression, to not respond to evil with evil, to give when it feels like there is nothing left, *and in this she is a picture of the goodness of God.*

Within the next chapter of Galatians, Paul will say this..

Galatians 6:10

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Opportunity: occasion

This goodness ought to be exhibited to everyone, however there is a priority laid out within the Scriptures.

1. Family (spouse & children)
2. Household of Faith (family of God)
3. Everyone Else

And so even if you are a woman without children, or someone who isn't even married, then you would simply move onto the second category of priority which is those in the household of faith. Paul lays this out in 1 Corinthians 7 the priority of serving the Lord in one's singleness.

Now, I told you when we started that this specific word used for "goodness" is used a total of four times in the New Testament and that would even include what we have on other Greek secular sources. Which means the best way for us to really understand this word and what it looks like is to look at the three other verses that Paul uses it in.

Ephesians 5:8-10

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

As we seek to walk in the light and find out what is pleasing to Him, this goodness will flow in our lives, along with righteousness and truth.

Romans 15:14

¹⁴ Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Here Paul is certain that the believers he is writing to at Rome are full of goodness and filled with knowledge as to then admonish one another.

Knowledge alone is not enough to benefit anyone around you. But when goodness and knowledge are mixed together then life changing admonishment can take place.

Admonish: to warn, to advise someone to avoid something, instruct and teach the proper behavior

Admonishment is not just the job of dad but a mantle the mom is to take on as well. Goodness is not soft or passive but will at times be willing to have the hard conversations.

Now the last usage of this word that we will look at will bring us to the source of where this

goodness really comes from.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

¹¹ Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹² that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

HIS GOODNESS, His goodness is given to us that the name of Jesus might be glorified in our lives.

The mom who displays goodness is only able to do so because she rejoices in the goodness of God within her own life.

If you sense this quality beginning to lack, can I encourage you today?

Galatians 6:9

⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. It is worth the work! You might not see it now, but God is using your goodness for His glory!

And this is why I think there is no better way to end today than to look to the goodness of God!

As you behold Him who is good, you will then be transformed into His likeness, His goodness.

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Without Him, we are incapable of true goodness. Psalm 14 and Romans 3 confirms that there is none good, no not one but we remember what Jesus said there is only One good and that is God.

Psalm 31:19

¹⁹ Oh, how great *is* Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, *Which* You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men!

Without the goodness of God, we would lose heart, we would become discouraged and give up.

Psalm 27:13

I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.

David understood this when in the 23rd Psalm he describes the Good Shepherd...

Psalm 23:6

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

And so it is in this way that we look to the goodness of God that He will conform us into the image of His Son that we too might live out His goodness in our lives all for the glory of God!

“Against such there is no law.”

Galatians was a book that Paul wrote to combat the legalist. The one who would relate to God on do's and don'ts and not the sufficient blood of Christ.

It almost seems like there is a little tongue and cheek here, a little sarcasm. There is no law against living out these divine attributes and really the law itself isn't able to produce these qualities.

Because this is all about the Spirit of God in us and not our own ability. This is what God does in the mom and any believer who walks with Him. He who calls you is faithful, who will also do it.

Philippians 2:13

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.