

SOP: Believing His Goodness

Definition of good: to be desired or approved of; that which is morally right; righteousness. Benefit or advantage to someone or something. Satisfactory in quality, quantity or degree. Valid, legally firm; not weak or defective; having strength adequate to its support. Complete or sufficiently perfect in its kind; having the physical qualities best adapted to its design and use; opposed to bad, imperfect, corrupted, impaired.

Hebrew: towb=goodness: moral, aesthetic, practical

- God's goodness represents everything that God is, everything that God has, and everything God desires for us to experience.

How God Describes His Creation

- Genesis 1:4, 1:10, 1:12
- He gets to decide what is good
- Creation is an extension of Creator God—and therefore—Good
- Goodness: benevolent goodness for the sake of the other
- Wickedness is the absence of goodness—without justice or righteousness—it is a violation of God's standards and design
- When He decides what is good—it is for our sake

Tree of knowledge of good and evil

- Both aspects are evil
- This is the introduction of deciding what is good—apart from God—and **for our own sake**
- Leads to separation

Quality of God that He wants us to understand:

- **Exodus 33:18-23**—I will make all My goodness pass before you
- **Psalm 109:21**
- **Psalm 65:11**
- **Psalm 31:19**
- **Psalm 145:9**
- **Psalm 23:6**
- **Ephesians 2:10**

Challenge to Believing His Goodness

- His Sovereignty—that everything that happens on this planet is a direct result of His will
- Because He is sovereign—all circumstances, righteous or wicked—are directly initiated by Him
- How can God be good when_____
- If I don't believe He is good-it is at the root of being able to trust (faith)
- In suffering, in trials, when I am in need....

Rich Young Ruler

- Good Teacher
- Response: No one is good but God alone
- Next time: Teacher—unwillingness to acknowledge Him as God
- Jesus invites him to sell his possessions/give to poor/come follow Him—invitation to benevolent goodness