

H3

Session 7

Theology Proper

Goodness

Caution on projecting our definitions and perspectives of “good” onto what we think God is/must be like.

“The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval” (Grudem, 197). But whose approval?

What is “good”? – that which God approves.

God is good

- Luke 18:19
- Psalm 100:5
- Psalm 34:8

What God does is good.

- Genesis 1:31
- Psalm 119:68

Everything that is good in the universe comes from God.

- James 1:17
- Acts 14:17
- Matthew 5:45

God’s goodness expressed in particular to the redeemed:

- Romans 8:28
- Matthew 7:11
- Hebrews 12:10

God’s goodness expressed to the unredeemed:

- Luke 6:35

Is there room for improvement in God?



Is there room for improvement in what God does?

In what situations do we tend to doubt the goodness of God?

Why do we do this?

What does this tendency say about our theology? Our hearts?

In what ways should God's goodness be reflected in those who are His?

One last meditation: Psalm 84:11

Righteousness/Justice

All that God does is right/just.

Two words in English. One word in heb/gk tsedek/dikaiois

- Deuteronomy 32:4
- Genesis 18:25
- John 17:25

The necessity of punishment of sin.

The necessity of the cross, if there would be any redemption

- Romans 3:25-26

What is the standard for righteousness to which God conforms? (Rom 9; Job 38-40)

Wrath

Because God intensely loves all that conforms to His own goodness and righteousness, He also intensely hates all that is not good and righteous. God's wrath is the inevitable response of God's goodness to sin.

- Exodus 32:9
- John 3:36
- Romans 1:18
- Ephesians 2:3
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10
- 2 Peter 3:9-10



What would God be like (and what would the universe be like) if God did not hate sin, injustice, unrighteousness, and evil?

What should our attitude be toward sin, injustice, unrighteousness, and evil?

What will our attitude be in eternity?

Mercy/Grace/Patience

These are ways in which God relates to sinners

Can be seen as expressions of God's goodness:

Mercy – "God's goodness toward those in misery and distress"

Grace – "God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment"

Patience – "God's goodness in withholding punishment toward those who sin over a period of time" (Grudem, 200)

- Exodus 34:6
- Psalm 103:8
- 2 Corinthians 1:3
- 1 Peter 5:10
- Romans 2:4

Is God obligated to express grace, mercy, or patience?

Love

1 John 4:8 "God is love"

InterTrinitarian expressions of love – "Everything hangs on the unbounded joy in the triune God from all eternity. This is the source of God's absolute self-sufficiency as a happy Sovereign. And every true act of free grace in redemptive history depends on it" (Piper, *The Pleasures of God*, 35).

- John 1:18 the Son "in the bosom of the Father"
- John 3:35 the Father loves the Son
- John 5:18-32 The Father loves the Son and desires for Him to have authority, judgment, honor
- John 10:11-18, 25-31 intimate knowledge and love between the Father and the Son
- John 14:16-17 The Son asks the Father to give the Spirit to believers
- John 14:28 joy at the Son's fellowship with the Father
- John 14:31 The Son loves the Father
- John 16:13-15 intimate relationship between the Persons; the Spirit's desire to glorify the Son
- John 17:24-26 The Father loved the Son before the foundation of the world; the Son loves the Father's glory



- Isa 42:1\Mt 12:18-20 The Father delights in the Son
- Mt 3:16-17 The Father and the Spirit visibly/audibly express love for and approval of the Son

The love of God for us

- 1 John 4:10
- Romans 5:8
- John 3:16
- Galatians 2:20

In what sense[s] is the love of God expressed to unbelievers?

The Glory of God

The outshining radiance of the totality of God's attributes.

OT/NT expressions of glory

In what sense do we glorify God?

In what sense is God glorified at all?

(lamp and mirrors)

Fountainhood

God's desire to give of Himself to a redeemed people for their infinitely increasing joy for all of eternity.

Consider God's attributes and the ways He has desired to express and reveal these to us!

Incomprehensibility – knowability

Transcendence – immanence

Independence – creation

Aseity – love, relationship

Essential glory – glorifiability, glorification of others

Isaiah 55:1-3/ John 7:37/Revelation 21:6

John 17:2-3

(rewards in the NT)

