

How to Love the Good

“It is a joy for the just to do justice”
(Prov. 21:15)

How to Love the Good

- The righteous saved do not just do truth and right; they love truth and right.
 - Prov. 21:15 - “It is a joy for the just to do justice...”
 - Prov. 10:29 - “The way of the LORD is strength for the upright”
 - Psalm 1:2 - “But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”

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- James 1:25 - “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
- 1Cor. 10:23 - “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.”
- 1Peter 3:13 - “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?”

How to Love the Good

- “The really important thing is not to live, but to live well; and to live well means the same thing as to live honorably or rightly.” (Socrates)
- “If you don't have a righteous objective, eventually you will suffer. When you do the right thing for the right reason, the right result awaits.” (Chin-Ning Chu)

How to Love the Good

- The ancient philosophers said, “Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you.”
A negative approach
- Jesus stated it positively
 - Matt. 7:12 - “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them...”
 - The difference between negatively refraining from doing evil and positively doing good is illustrated by the Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

Redefining Goodness And Morality

- Most people would consider the priest and Levite good, moral people
- How do many, including disciples, define good and moral?
 - Not murdering, not committing adultery, not lying, etc.
 - Are we good because we have a list of things we are against?
 - Matt. 5:20 - “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Redefining Goodness And Morality

- Luke 18:9-11 - “Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.”
- The Pharisees were not sanctified, but sanctimonious, which is hypocritical high-mindedness

Goodness And Morality Are Proactive

- There is more to being good than looking down on immorality.
- “Loving what is right is different than hating what is wrong and feeling right about it” (Roy Masters).
- We do not truly succeed in being on the side of truth and goodness if all we do is criticize evil.

Goodness And Morality Are Proactive

- Do we love justice?
 - Matt. 25:41-45 - “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me. 44 Then they also will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You? 45 Then He will answer them, saying, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me”

Goodness And Morality Are Proactive

- Isa. 1:16-17 - “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.”

Knowing Good And Doing Good

- We become good when we do the good that we know should do.
- We tend to judge others by whether they do what is right, while we judge ourselves by what we believe is right.
- “Can do and have done don’t live in the same neighborhood!”

Knowing Good And Doing Good

- James 1:21-27 - “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. 26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

Knowing Good And Doing Good

- James 2:14, 24, 26 - “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?... 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only... 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
- James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”
- “All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing.” (Edmund Burke)

Knowing Good And Doing Good

- When it comes to standing on the right side, by just believing in the good are we actually standing on the other side by our inaction?
 - Obad. 10-11 - “For violence against your brother Jacob, Shame shall cover you, And you shall be cut off forever. 11 In the day that you stood on the other side-In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem-Even you were as one of them.”

Knowing Good And Doing Good

- There is happiness and blessings in doing the right thing when we know to do it.
 - John 13:17 - “If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”
- “This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.” (Martin Luther)