

TEACHING YOUR FAMILY WHAT IT MEANS TO BE GOOD

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As parents, we all want to raise good kids. But what does it really mean to be good? The world has many answers, like being friendly, following rules, or making others happy. But the Bible teaches us that real goodness is deeper than just feelings or opinions.

What does God say about goodness?

In [Galatians 5:22-23](#), Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit, describing qualities that should be growing in the life of a believer. These aren't just feelings but tools to navigate the world with wisdom and strength.



Jesus also explains goodness using the analogy of a tree in Luke 6:43-45: *"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces. You cannot pick figs or grapes from thornbushes. Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts."* Just like a healthy tree produces good fruit, a heart connected to God will produce goodness.

How Can We Teach Goodness to Our Families?

1. **Show that God defines goodness.** Goodness isn't just about being nice or helpful. It's about being right with God. Romans 12:2 reminds us, *"Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him."* Teaching our children that God defines goodness helps them look beyond what the world says is right and wrong.
2. **Explain that goodness has a purpose.** Goodness is about being useful. A good tool does its job well. Ask your children, "Are we helping others? Are we doing the right thing?" Encourage them to help others through small acts of kindness or by standing up for what is right.
3. **Teach that being good isn't always easy.** Sometimes we want to do the right thing but still make wrong choices. In Romans 7:18, Paul writes, *"I know that my selfish desires won't let me do anything that is good. Even when I want to do right, I cannot."* We all feel that way sometimes! But with God's help, we can be strong and make good choices, even when it's hard.

How to Live Out Goodness as a Family

The best way to teach goodness is to live it. Show your children that goodness comes from a heart that loves God. It's not about doing good things. It's about being changed on the inside.

Psalm 23:6 says, *"Surely, goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life."* When we invite God into our lives, his goodness fills our homes. So, are we good people? On our own, it's hard. But with God living in us, we can say, "God is good, and he is in me."

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