

The Goodness and Holiness of God

Goodness of God

1. What is the goodness of God?

The goodness of God, in general terms, speaks of his all-around perfection. God is not irrational or wavering in his being and actions. Everything he is and does is in line with his perfect character.

2. God is both the highest good / **the standard** of good and **the source** of all goodness.

[19] And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? **No one is good except God alone.**
(Luke 18:19)

[9] For with you is the fountain of life; **in your light do we see light.**
(Psalm 36:9)

[17] **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above**, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
(James 1:17)

3. Since God is perfectly good, all that he does is good and for good.

[5] **For the LORD is good**; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
(Psalm 100:5)

[68] **You are good and do good**; teach me your statutes.
(Psalm 119:68)

[9] **The LORD is good to all**, and his mercy is over all that he has made.
(Psalm 145:9)

[19] But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? [20] As for you, you meant evil against me, **but God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
(Genesis 50:19-20)

[28] And we know that **for those who love God all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.
(Romans 8:28)

4. Knowing God is perfectly good should comfort us helping us to give thanks in all circumstances, seek goodness, and seek God out all the more.

[18] give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

[2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

(Romans 12:2)

[25] Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. [26] My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

(Psalm 73:25-26)

“The greatness of God rouses fear within us, but his goodness encourages us not to be afraid of Him. To fear and not be afraid – that is the paradox of faith.” A.W. Tozer

Holiness of God

1. What is holiness?

R.C. Sproul defines the holiness of God as God being **transcendentally separate and infinitely greater than all created things**.

To understand the holiness of God is to understand our “creatureliness” in respect to our Creator.

Isaiah:

[6:1] In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. [2] Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. [3] And one called to another and said:

**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

[4] And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. [5] And I said: **“Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”**

[6] Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. [7] And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

(Isaiah 6:1-7)

Moses:

[2] And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. [3] And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” [4] When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” [5] Then he said, **“Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”** [6] And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” **And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.**

(Exodus 3:2-6)

[18] Moses said, "Please show me your glory." [19] And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. [20] But," he said, "**you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.**" [21] And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, [22] and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. [23] Then I will take away my hand, and **you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.**"

(Exodus 33:18-23)

Joshua:

[13] When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" [14] And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come." **And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped** and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" [15] And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "**Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.**" And Joshua did so.

(Joshua 5:13-15)

2.

How does the concept of God's holiness connect / relate to mankind?

To answer this question, we first need to ask what is the story of the Bible? What is the goal of all things and all mankind?

[44] For I am the LORD your God. **Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy.** You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. [45] For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. **You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.**"

(Leviticus 11:44-45)

[14] As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, [15] **but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,** [16] since it is written, "**You shall be holy, for I am holy.**"

(1 Peter 1:14-16)

3. How is God's holiness directly related to us and the gospel?

[3] For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
(Colossians 3:3)

[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
(2 Corinthians 5:21)

The beauty of the story of the Bible is that God sends Jesus to rescue us from and ushers us into his holiness. We are hid and secure in Christ because Christ experienced the holy wrath of God for us and given us his righteousness. God rescues us from himself.