

TO BE RIGHTEOUS IS TO BE GOOD

The Lord is good and does what is right, He shows the proper path to those who go astray. He leads the humble in what is right, teaching them His way. Psalm 25: 8,9

Why do you call me good? Only God is good. Mark 10:18

You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. Colossians 3:13b

The highest righteousness found in God is that He loves sinners, has mercy, and withholds nothing necessary for their salvation. While we were sinners, Christ died for us. It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance.

For us to have the peace of God in our heart, we must freely forgive those who sin against us. When we harbor unforgiveness, we hurt ourselves. God freely forgives the sinner in His heart. If God harbored unforgiveness in His heart, or if God demanded punishment of the guilty, then God would be less than righteous, less than good. If a man sins against me and is guilty in my eyes, I must not demand full restitution before I freely forgive the man from my heart. Forgiving from my heart requires my release from anger, hatred, and a demand for restitution. God is already good. He never requires releasing Himself from anger, hatred, and the need to punish anyone. The wrath of God is not for punishment. The wrath of God is a demonstration of His love. The wrath of God is a withholding of His protection in order to bring about a redemptive purpose. God's predetermined outcome is to reconcile all things in heaven and earth to Himself. The Cross of Christ and His resurrection brings about this reconciliation of all things. Each person has the opportunity to be reconciled to God by being released from bondage to sin through cooperation with the Holy Spirit. God has done everything necessary for this cooperation to occur. Through faith in Jesus, a person must receive release from bondage to sin. Jesus died on the cross so that we can be finished with sin and live a good life of righteousness from now on. 1 Peter 2:24b

To be righteous is to be good. God is righteous because He freely forgives sin from His heart without any payment for sin. Jesus died a physical death to condemn sin to extinction. Sin was allowed to do the atrocious act of killing the sinless Son of God. Sin has condemned itself to extermination. Sin was judged at the cross. Jesus arose with all power to remove sin from repentant sinners and ultimately from all creation. A person must freely receive release from bondage to sin through faith in Jesus. The believer does acts of righteousness initiated and empowered by the Holy Spirit. That is good.

