

SERMON SERIES: The Best Summer Ever

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Sermon Title

“Goodness”

Introduction

This week we continued our series called Best Summer Ever. During this series, we will explore the passage of 2 Peter 1:5-8 to help us close the gap between who we are now and who Christ is calling us to be. This week’s focus is Goodness. When we look at how Jesus defines “goodness”, we see that there is a necessity of re-tuning from the Spirit in our daily lives.

- What is your least favorite chore to do around the house and why?

Seek the Word

- Read the creation account found in Genesis 1, highlighting each time God calls something good. What about these things do you think warranted God saying that they were “good”?
- Read 2 Peter 1:8. How does the quality “goodness” impact the negative qualities of being ineffective and unproductive?

Go Deeper

Ryan told us that our goodness does not come from our actions or possessions, but from our identity in being made in the image of God. How does this impact your opinion of yourself and how “good” you are?

Talk About It

- Reflect on this statement from Thomas Merton. “It is not that someone else is preventing you from living happily; you yourself do now know what you want. Rather than admit this and ask for God’s help, you pretend that someone else is keeping you from exercising your liberty. Who is this? It is you yourself.” What are the ways in which you get in the way of your own spiritual growth?
- **The pursuit of goodness will require regular re-tuning from the Holy Spirit.** What are some ways that you can connect with the Spirit for regular/daily re-tuning?
- **The pursuit of goodness requires pulling weeds and cleaning out closets.** What are the weeds (how you act and talk, what you do and support) that you have been neglecting to pull in your life? What in your closet (secrets and sin that you have kept buried from others) have you been waiting to clean out?
- **The pursuit of goodness requires new experiences with God’s grace.** How have you been holding back from experiencing God’s grace, and what do you need to do to open yourself up to experiencing God’s grace in new ways?

Wrap Up

Reminder: Our goodness is not based on physical acts; our goodness is a fundamental part of our identity. By His Spirit, God desires to awaken that goodness in us. When we begin to live out that part of our identity, our actions will match the character of God.

Challenge: Make a list of the weeds in your life that need to be pulled and the things in your closet that need to be cleaned out. Focus on one of those things this week, and commit to pulling or cleaning that out of your life. Ask God for wisdom, strength, and grace in your pursuit to reflect His goodness each and every day.