

**WHAT the BIBLE TEACHES about GOD and JESUS CHRIST**

**Lesson 2 - Part 4**

**GOD THE FATHER**

**The goodness of God**

1. We learned that attributes are things which show what a person is really like. We learned four attributes of God in the previous lesson.

Write down four attributes of God.

- God does not
- God is
- God is
- God is

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2. God does not change, He is holy, righteous and just, and true.

In this lesson we want to learn another attribute of God - the **goodness of God**. God shows us His goodness:

- in His love
- in His kindness
- in His mercy
- in His grace

Luke 18:19

*“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good - except God alone.”*

Who alone is good?

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3. God alone is good. We see His goodness when He shows us love, kindness, mercy, and grace.

God is a God of love and He is love.

2 Corinthians 13:11

*. . . And the God of love and peace will be with you.*



1 John 4:8

*Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

Who is love?

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4. God is love, **but love is not God**. God loves in a real way. He loves people so much that He gave His only Son for them.

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Who loves all people?

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5. God loves all people. He wants all of them to be saved and be with Him.

2 Peter 3:9

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

Why does God want all people to repent?

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6. Because God loves all people He wants them to repent. He wants them to be with Him. He does not want any of them to go to hell. He loves in a special way those who take Christ as Saviour.

John 14:23

*Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."*

What is one way in which God shows His goodness?

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7. God shows His goodness in His love. He loves His children enough that He disciplines (corrects) them.

Hebrews 12:5,6

*And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."*

God loves people because He chooses to love them. It is His free choice.

Who is love?

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8. God is love and a God of love.

God also shows His goodness in His kindness. God is not mean and cruel. He is kind. When people are mean to God or speak evil of Him, He does not get even with them. He is kind to them and wants them to turn away from their wickedness.



Romans 2:4

*Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance (leniency) and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

Who shows kindness to people?

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9. God shows kindness to people. He does not treat people the way many treat Him. God gives food to those who love Him and also to those who hate Him.

Acts 14:17

*Yet he has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.*

Matthew 5:45

*He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

God shows His goodness in His love. How else does He show His goodness?

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10. God also shows His goodness in His kindness.

God shows mercy to those who have problems and are down-hearted. To have mercy means to show kindness to those who are helpless.



John 5:6-8

*When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me ..." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."*

This man could not help himself. Jesus came and showed mercy to Him and healed him. In another story, Luke 10:25-37, the Samaritan man showed mercy to the one who was hurt. To show mercy means to help someone who cannot help himself.

To whom does God show mercy?

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11. God shows mercy to those who cannot help themselves. People have sinned and cannot help themselves. They need God's help. God wants to show mercy or kindness to those who are helpless.

Isaiah 55:7

*Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.*

What will God show to those who come (turn) to Him?

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12. He will show mercy to them. To have mercy also means to forgive someone who has hurt us. When we sin, we hurt God. He shows mercy in that He forgives us when we repent. He is right and fair, but He also shows mercy.

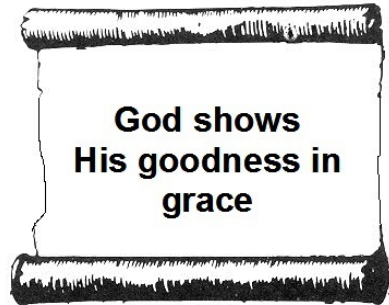
How does God show us His goodness?

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- in His grace

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13. God shows us His goodness in His love, kindness, mercy, and grace.

Grace is the goodness of God shown to those who deserve to be punished. God shows grace to people because He waits a long time for people to repent of their sin. This is grace.



2 Peter 3:9

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

What is grace?

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14. Grace is the goodness of God shown to those who only deserve to be punished. It is by the grace of God that we can be saved.

Romans 6:23

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

What does God show when He gives us eternal life?

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15. God shows us grace when He gives us eternal life. We do not deserve eternal life because we have sinned.

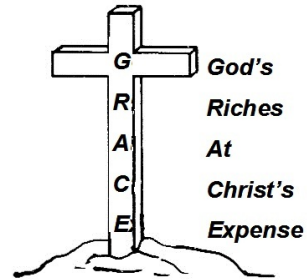
Ephesians 2:8,9

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*

How are we saved?

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16. We are saved by grace through faith. Grace can also be seen as, "God's riches at Christ's expense." We have the riches of God's salvation because Christ paid the price for our sin. This is grace because we do not deserve to be treated so well by God.



Who shows grace to people?

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17. God shows grace to people. Talk about this with two or three other people.

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18. How does God show His goodness?

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- In His mercy
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