

# God is Good

We can know that God is sovereign.  
God's sovereignty is good.

What is good? What does good mean?

- Morally good refers to aspects of personhood such as deeds, motives, intentions, desires
- Quality of good as in satisfactory in quality, quantity, or degree

Thus, **MORALITY** ("good") **IS BASED ON THE CREATION ORDER** ("good")

In Eternity was God:

1. Unity in One
2. Love in Trinity
3. "Good" in order, union, purpose

God created:

1. "Good" in God's created:
  - a. Order
  - b. Purpose
  - c. Structure
2. This created organization was "good"
3. This created order established morality ("good")

Anything outside of God's goodness (from eternity or in creation) would be evil, disorder, deconstruction.

## **"Evil" in Hebrew:**

- **עַר** - /rah/ = "evil" (natural or moral), "adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, displeasure, distress"

## **"Good" in Hebrew:**

**טוֹב** - /tob/ = "good" in the widest sense, also "beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, at ease, pleasant, agreeable, beneficial, fair word, be in favor"

## **"Good" in Greek:**

**ἀγαθός** - /ag-ath-os/ = "good" (in any sense)", "inherently (intrinsically) good; as to the believer, describes what originates from God and is empowered by Him in their life, through faith."

**καλός** - / kal-os/ = "good", "attractively good; good that inspires", "beautiful, but chiefly (figuratively) good (literally or morally), i.e. Valuable or virtuous (for appearance or use, and thus distinguished from agathos, which is properly intrinsic)

## Genesis 1:4 – “good” is “tob” or “towb”

430 [e] 'ē-lō-hīm, אֱלֹהִים God N-mp	914 [e] way-yab·dēl וַיִּבְדֵּל and divided Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConseclImperf-3ms	2896 [e] tō-wb; טוֹב [it was] good Adj-ms	3588 [e] kī- כִּי that Conj	216 [e] hā-'ō-wr הָאוֹר the light Art   N-cs	853 [e] 'et- את־ - DirObjM	430 [e] 'ē-lō-hīm אֱלֹהִים God N-mp	7200 [e] way-yar וַיַּרְא And saw Conj-w   V-Qal-ConseclImperf-3ms
				2822 [e] ha-ḥō-šek. הַחֹשֶׁק: the darkness Art   N-ms	996 [e] ū-bēn וּבֵין and between Conj-w   Prep	216 [e] hā-'ō-wr הָאוֹר the light Art   N-cs	996 [e] bēn בֵּין between Prep

- Genesis 1:4 – light good
- Genesis 1:10 – land and sea separated
- Genesis 1:12 – plants, seeds grow in the separated land
- Genesis 1:18 – sun, moon to mark separation
- Genesis 1:21 – animals in sea and birds to occupy the separation
- Genesis 1:25 – animals on the land to occupy the separation
- Genesis 1:31 – everything in the created order and designed was “VERY GOOD”
- Genesis 2:9 – every tree was “good” for food; Tree of the knowledge of “good” and “evil”

## Genesis 2:9 – “good” is “towb”; “evil” is “ra”

3978 [e] lə-ma'ā-kāl; לְמַאֲכָל for food Prep-l   N-ms	2896 [e] wə-tō-wb וְטוֹב and good Conj-w   Adj-ms	4758 [e] lə-mar'eh לְמַרְאֵה to the sight Prep-l   N-ms	2530 [e] neh-mād נֶחְמָד that is pleasing V-Nifal-PrtcpI-pls	6086 [e] 'ēš עֵץ tree N-ms	3605 [e] kal- כָּל־ every N-msc	127 [e] hā-'ā-dā-mah, הָאָדָמָה of the ground Art   N-fs	4480 [e] min- מִן־ out Prep	430 [e] 'ē-lō-hīm אֱלֹהִים God N-mp	3068 [e] Yah-weh יְהוָה Yahweh N-proper-ms	6779 [e] way-yaš-mah וַיַּצְמַח And made grow Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConseclImperf-3ms
			7451 [e] wā-rā'. וָרָע: and evil Conj-w   Adj-ms	2896 [e] tō-wb טוֹב of good N-ms	1847 [e] had-da'at הַדַּעַת of the knowledge Art   N-fsc	6086 [e] wə-'ēš וְעֵץ and the tree Conj-w   N-msc	1588 [e] hag-gān, הַגֵּן of the garden Art   N-cs	8432 [e] bē-tō-wk בְּתוֹךְ in the midst Prep-b   N-msc	2416 [e] ha-hay-yim הַחַיִּים of life [was] Art   N-mp	6086 [e] wə-'ēš וְעֵץ and the tree Conj-w   N-msc

- Genesis 2:12 – the gold of that land was “good”
- Genesis 2:17 – “but of the tree of the knowledge of **good** and **evil** you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- Genesis 2:18 – It was “NOT GOOD” that man should be alone. It was “good” for a man to have a woman.
  - Man with a woman is Creation order.
  - Man and woman is a Design set by God (good) that becomes good human morality.
- Genesis 3:5 – Satan says, “You will be like God, knowing “**good**” and “**evil**”
- Genesis 3:6 – “the woman saw that the tree was **good** for food, ...a delight to the eyes.”
- Genesis 3:22 - Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.”

- Genesis 6:2 – some of the daughters of men were “**tob**”, “good” or “beautiful”

2007 [e] 2896 [e] 3588 [e] 120 [e] 1323 [e] 853 [e] 430 [e] 1121 [e] 7200 [e]  
 hên-nāh; tō·bōt̄ kī hā-’ā·dām, be-nō-wt̄ ’et̄- hā-’ē-lō-hīm be-nē- way-yir-’ū  
 הָנָּה — טֹבָתְךָ כִּי , הָאָדָם בָּנוֹת אֶת־ הָאֱלֹהִים בְּנֵי־ וַיִּרְאוּ 2  
 they [were] beautiful that of men the daughters - of God the sons that saw  
 Pro-3fp Adj-fp Conj Art | N-ms N-fpc DirObjM Art | N-mp N-mpc Conj-w | V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3mp

977 [e] 834 [e] 3605 [e] 802 [e] 3947 [e]  
 bā·hā·rū. ’ā·šer mik-kōl nā-šīm, lā·hem way-yiq·hū  
 . בָּחָרוּ: אֲשֶׁר מִכֹּל , נָשִׁים לָהֶם וַיִּקְחוּ  
 they chose whomever of all wives for themselves and they took  
 V-Qal-Perf-3cp Pro-r Prep-m | N-ms N-fp Prep | 3mp Conj-w | V-Qal-Conseclmpf-3mp

- Genesis 24:16 – Rebekah was “good” from “**tob**”, or “beautiful”

3966 [e] 4758 [e] 2896 [e] 5291 [e]  
 mē-’ōd, mar-’eh tō·bat̄ wə·han·na-’ā·rā,  
 מְאֹד מְרֹאֶה טֹבָתְךָ וְהַנְּעִרָה 16  
 very to behold beautiful Now the young woman [was]  
 Adv N-ms Adj-fsc Conj-w, Art | N-fs

- “Called it good”
  - God is the judge
  - Light is “good” because it accomplishes its purpose of dispelling “darkness”
  - Light is good because it separates and establishes boundaries
  - The first separations establish order, relationship and function:
    - 1:4 – light/darkness
    - 1:6 – expanse separates water from water forming sky
    - 1:9 – water/land forming a place for the plants; And, the fish in sea and animals on land.
  - There is separation that is “good” (wholesome) and a separation that is “evil” (malignant):
    - Separation toward order:
      - Light from darkness
      - Waters above from waters below
      - Day from night
      - Woman from man
    - Separation toward disorder:
      - Man from God
      - Man from woman
      - Man from the soil
      - Man from a garden
- Note: material isn’t evil when organized and functioning with God’s design and purpose
  - Created order is “very good”
  - An ascetic lifestyle is **not** “good”

3. Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil:
  - a. Attempting to displace God as moral authority
  - b. Man attempting to rely solely on himself to determine what is “good”
    - i. Man determining right and wrong
    - ii. Secular Humanism
  - c. People become their own god
4. Knowledge of Good and Evil is man having the ability or the sin nature to rebel against created order (and, the morality that comes with it) to rearrange creation in man’s own design, and so become his own moral authority (moral autonomy). This is why the Bible tells us:

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.**

- Proverbs 3:5-6

(allow God to lead you back to his design and order.)

5. “Knowledge of Good and Evil” refers to having the ability to determine good and evil on your own.
  - a. Someone that is not old enough does not have the capacity to make those decisions.
  - b. Someone who is told, “do not speak good or evil” to a person concerning a situation means the decision is already made by God. It does not mean “be silent” or “do not talk to that person”. It means do not share your opinion.
  - c. Genesis 24:45-51 Laban is told not to say bad or good to the servant Abraham had sent to get a wife for Isaac since God had already led Abraham’s servant to the right place and to the right girl:
 

***“Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the Lord; we cannot speak to you bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken.”***

– Genesis 24:50-51
  - d. 1 Kings 3:9 – Solomon prayed for the ability to discern between “good and evil” in order to rule the people:
 

***“Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”***
  - e. Deuteronomy 1:39 – “And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.”
  - f. Isaiah 7:14-16 – “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For **before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good,** the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.”

## God is Good:

1 Chronicles 16:34 – “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Ezra 3:11 – “And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

Psalms 25:8 – “Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

Psalms 23:6 – “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Psalms 145:9 – “The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

**Mark 10:18 – “And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.”**

James 1:17 – “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.”

**Matthew 7:11 – “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”**

Psalms 27:13-14 – “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

Psalms 145:5-7 – “On the glorious splendor of your majesty, on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness shall sing aloud of your righteousness.”

Psalms 34:8 – “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

Psalms 100:4-5 – “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise! thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 107:8-9 – “Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, his wondrous works to the children of man! For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Psalms 143:10 – “Teach me to do your will, you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

Psalms 119:68 – “You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.”

Psalms 69:16 – “Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.”

Psalm 31:19-20 – “Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind! In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter the strife of tongues.”

Psalm 86:5 – “For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.”

Psalm 16:1-2 – “Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

Nehemiah 9:20 – “You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst.”

Nahum 1:7-8 – “The Lord is good, stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, will pursue his enemies into darkness.”

**Romans 8:28 – “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”**

John 10:11 – “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Matthew 5:16 – “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Galatians 5:22-23 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Psalm 73:1-3 – “Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalm 136:1 – “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”

Galatians 6:9 – “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

---

Genesis 50:20 – “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.”

Romans 12:2 – “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**.”