

## Systematic Theology Chapter 12

### Goodness and Love

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#### Goodness

1. What does it mean that God is good?
2. Do you agree that God is good and does everything well? How is God's goodness still in action during the hard times and trials we experience? (**Nahum 1:7**)
3. When do you wonder whether God has your welfare in view? Why do you question His goodness?
4. Read **Mark 10:17-18**. Why does Jesus ask the rich man, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone."? Explain this passage. What do the commentators have to say about this text? Why did Jesus have a problem with a custom of the Jews that involving calling human beings "good"?
5. What does **Matthew 5:45** say about the goodness of God with respect even to the reprobate wicked?
6. How has God's goodness followed you all the days of your life? Now that you are older, how can you see evidence of God's goodness towards you in the past? What are some of the many good gifts that God has given to you?

7. **Genesis chapter 1** repeatedly states that “It was good”. What does that mean?
  
8. Is anyone good? (See **Romans 3:10-12, 23**) How does this passage teach the doctrine of Total Depravity?
  
9. We should imitate God’s communicable attributes. How can you imitate God’s goodness?

## Love

10. Define and describe the divine attribute of love. We daily tell our husbands and children that we love them. What does that mean? Explain what love is.
  
11. Why does the Bible go so far as to say that “God is love”? Why does the Bible do this when it never states that God is justice or mercy or wrath?
  
12. Was God a loving being before angels or men were created? Explain how the doctrine of the Trinity provides an answer to this question.
  
13. What does it mean when we say that God's love is uninfluenced?
  
14. How are you to imitate this communicable attribute of God?

15. How can you grow in love for:

Your husband	
Your children	
Your church family	
Your enemies	

16. Explain what Jesus means when He says in **John 13:35**: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”