



Scripture: Genesis 1:1-13, Genesis 3:1–7

Hey everyone, I'm glad you're here. We're kicking off our new series, "God Is...", where each week we're going to explore a different part of God's character.

Let me start with a question: how many of you have ever argued with someone about pizza toppings? You know what I mean: one person says pineapple on pizza is amazing, another says it's basically a crime. [\[Pause for responses/votes.\]](#)

That's a great example of how we often use the word "good." In this case, "good" is really about having a preference. What's good for me might not be good for you, and that's okay. Nobody's life falls apart if we disagree on pizza toppings.

But there's another way we use the word "good," and this one matters more. Imagine you order something off eBay or Amazon and the description says, "good condition." But when it arrives, it looks like it fell out of a moving car. That's different from a pizza topping. Here, "good" isn't just about preference. It's about a standard. You can't just say, "Well, at least it's good compared to if I ran it over with a train." At some point, there must be a definition of what "good condition" means. Otherwise, the word is meaningless.

And that takes us into even bigger questions. What about when it comes to right and wrong, justice and injustice, or how we treat people? Can "good" mean whatever I want it to mean? What happens when my version of good collides with yours? If everyone defines good however they want, the result is confusion, conflict, and ultimately chaos.

That's why we're going back to the very beginning. In Genesis, we find that God is the One who defined good. He created the world, and He called it good. God alone has the authority to define what truly is good. But when humans tried to take that role for themselves, everything started to unravel.

So, if you've ever been confused about what's right or wrong, or if you've ever wondered how to know what's truly good when the world feels chaotic, this message is for you. Let's pray before we dive in.

[Pause and pray.]

Alright, let's open our Bibles to **Genesis 1:1-13 (NIV)**. We're going to read verses 1–31, but I want you to pay special attention to the pattern in these verses. Listen for the word “good.”

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

If you keep reading through the rest of Genesis 1, you'll notice the pattern continues. On day four, after creating the sun, moon, and stars, “God saw that it was good” (v.18). On day five, when He made the birds and sea creatures, “God saw that it was good” (v.21). On day six, after creating the animals, “God saw that it was good” (v.25). And then, finally, after creating

humans in His image, verse 31 says, “*God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.*”

Did you catch that rhythm? Repeatedly we read: “God saw that it was good.” Here’s the key: it wasn’t good because Adam or Eve decided it was. It wasn’t good because creation itself voted on it. It was good because God, the Creator, declared it so.

Think about it like this: imagine an artist paints a picture. Who gets to decide if it’s finished? Who has the authority to say if it’s beautiful or not? The person who painted it, right? The creator has the right to determine the value of what they create.

In the same way, God—who made everything—has the authority to define what is good. And here’s something deeper: the reason creation was good wasn’t just because of its function or design. It was good because it reflected God Himself. **Psalm 119:68 (NIV)** says of God, “*You are good, and what you do is good.*” God Himself is the definition of goodness, and when He created the world, He infused it with His goodness.

Now, let’s jump ahead to Genesis 3. This is where everything shifted.

Genesis 3:1–7 (NIV):

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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