

Doing Good

Introduction:

- A. I doubt many in the religious world today fail to realize the need for involvement in good works. After all, Jesus who is our example in all things (2 Pet. 2:21), was declared to be one “who went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). We know that we are to be involved in good works for this is a sign of Christian maturity.
- B. But, not only is important to understand the need to be involved in good works, we also need to know what constitutes these good works. There is much discussion and misunderstanding as to what this involves. Many think whatever they do is to be considered good works. But they do not seem to understand they are to also be done by the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17; 1 Thess.4:1-2).
- C. Let us now consider some important principles that will help us to do good works in a manner that will be well pleasing in the sight of God.

I. The Underlying Principle For Doing Good

- A. For what reason are we to be involved in good works?

- 1. To be seen of men? - Matt 6:1-18

Matthew 6:1 - "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

- 2. To bribe people into the church? - Rom. 6:17

Romans 6:17 - But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

- B. The Bible says we are to be involved in good works for the purpose of glorifying God - Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12

Matthew 5:16 - "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

1 Peter 2:12 - Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

II. To Whom Are Good Works To Be Done?

- A. There has been a lot of discussion over the years among members of the Lord's church concerning for whom good may be performed

- B. Let's allow the word of God settle the matter forever - Gal. 6:10; 2 Cor. 9:13; 1 Thess. 5:15

Galatians 6:10 - So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

2 Corinthians 9:13 - Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,

1 Thessalonians 5:15 - See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

III. *Of What Are These Good Works To Consist?*

A. Doing good involves distributing and communicating - 1 Tim. 6:18

1 Timothy 6:18 - Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

B. In doing good we must obey the laws of the land - Titus 3:1

Titus 3:1 - Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

C. In doing good we must be sound in doctrine and speech - Titus 2:7-8; 2:1

Titus 2:7-8 - in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

Titus 2:1 - But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

D. Doing good involves helping the needy - Eph. 4:28

Ephesians 4:28 - He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

IV. *How Often Should We Be Involved In Doing Good?*

A. Tabitha was “abounding with deeds of kindness and charity” - Acts 9:36

Acts 9:36 - Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

B. Jesus says we are to “bear much fruit” - Jn. 15:8

John 15:8 - "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

C. Paul says “...bearing fruit in every good work” - Col. 1:10

Colossians 1:10 - so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

D. Paul wrote “perseverance in doing good” is a must for those who are seeking eternal life- Rom. 2:7

Romans 2:7 - to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

E. We are told to be “rich in good works” - 1 Tim 6:18

1 Timothy 6:18 - Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

F. We are also to “learn to engage in good deeds” - Tit. 3:14

Titus 3:14 - Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

G. Thus, we are to maintain continual fruit bearing, being full and overflowing in doing good.

H. Remember, only the unfaithful retire from doing good!

V. *How Are Good Works To Be Done?*

A. Good works are to be done with all of our hearts - 2 Chron. 31:20-21

2 Chronicles 31:20-21 - Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and he did what was good, right and true before the LORD his God. Every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.

B. Good works can only be done through action -- not mere words - 1 Jn 3:17-18

1 John 3:17-18 - But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with

word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

C. Good must be done with patience - Rom. 2:7

Romans 2:7 - to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;

D. Good works must be done with great eagerness - Titus 2:14

Titus 2:14 - who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

E. Good works must be done without weariness - Gal. 6:9; 1 Cor. 15:58

Galatians 6:9 - Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

F. Good works must be done according to truth - Col 3:17

Colossians 3:17 - Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

VI. *What Are The Reasons For Doing Good?*

A. As already mentioned, good works glorify God - Jn 15:8

John 15:8 - "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

B. In doing good we silence foolish men - 1 Pet. 2:15

1 Peter 2:15 - For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

C. When we are involved in doing good, we escape eternal destruction - Matt. 7:19

Matthew 7:19 - "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

D. Doing good works is proof of our faith, and is good and profitable - Titus 3:8; Deut. 12:28

Titus 3:8 - This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.

Deuteronomy 12:28 - "Be careful to listen to all these words which I command you, so that it may be well with you and your sons after you forever, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

E. If we are involved in good works, we are obeying God, and are thus in His love and will be His friend - Jn 15:10; 15:14

John 15:10 - "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

John 15:14 - "You are My friends if you do what I command you.

F. If we avoid doing good we deny God, we are disobedient, abominable and reprobate - Titus 1:16

Titus 1:16 - They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

G. If we are involved in good works we will be a good example for others to follow - 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7

1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

Titus 2:7 - in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,
H. When we are involved in good works we lay a good foundation and lay hold on eternal life - 1
Tim. 6:18-19

1 Timothy 6:18-19 - Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Conclusion

A. Doing good is vital to the wellbeing of the church.

B. We need to encourage one another in this area (Heb. 10:24).

Hebrews 10:24 - and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,