



Galatians 5:22-23

Part 6 - Goodness: The Habit That Guides Our Values

Pastor Mark Hartman

October 20, 2013

Galatians 5:22-23 “But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **goodness**, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law.” (NLT)

Virtue is the act of integrating Godly values into our **daily actions**.

Micah 6:8 “God has showed you, O man, what is **good**. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (NIV)

We are not the sum total of our possessions. We are the sum total of our **character**.

I. A PERSON OF VIRTUE IS LED BY **JUSTICE**.

A. *Micah 6:8* “God has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act **justly** and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (NIV)

B. The word "justice" means to be morally and ethically **right**, to be fair-minded, to do the right thing."

1. God calls out His people to **speak up** for those who cannot speak for themselves.

a. *Proverbs 31:8-9* “**Speak up** for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹ **Speak up** and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (NIV)

b. *Jeremiah 22:3 “This is what the LORD says: Be fair-minded and **just**. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent!” (NLT)*

2. Those who cannot speak for themselves are those who have no **social power** to change their plight.

a. The **unborn** cannot speak for themselves.

b. Victims of **human** trafficking in our country cannot speak for themselves.

c. The Bible identifies in dozens of passages that the **poor** and **needy** cannot speak for themselves.

This is not a **political** issue. This is a moral issue.

d. In over 80 passages in the Bible, God commands His people to treat **immigrants** in our country with kindness and love.

3. *Isaiah 10:1-2 “Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ² to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.” (NIV)*

C. We are to treat those within our everyday lives with **justice**.

Luke 6:31 “Do unto others the way you would want them to do unto you.”

D. “Preach the gospel all the time; if necessary use **words**.” (St. Francis of Assisi)

II. A PERSON OF VIRTUE IS PROVEN BY **FORGIVENESS**.

A. *Micah 6:8 “God has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love **mercy** and to walk humbly with your God.” (NIV)*

B. *Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (NIV)*

C. *Matthew 6:12, 14-15 “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹⁴ For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

