

Section: Doctrine of God

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**Q13. Is God good?**

Yes. God is truly, perfectly good.

* **Scripture Is Authoritative**

**John 10:35** “…Scripture cannot be broken”

**1689 Baptist Confession of Faith**: “The Holy Scriptures are the only sufficient, certain, and infallible standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.”

**Herman Bavinck**: “Holy Scripture is a hymn of praise to the goodness of the Lord.”

**1689 Baptist Confession of Faith**: “From all eternity God decreed everything that occurs, without reference to anything outside himself. He did this by the perfectly wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably. Yet God did this in such a way that he is neither the author of sin nor has fellowship with any in their sin.”

* **Is God Good?**

**A. W. Pink**: “God is essentially good; not only good, but goodness itself: the creature’s good is an added quality, in God it is His essence. He is infinitely good; the creature’s good is but a drop, but in God there is an infinite ocean or gathering together of good. He is eternally and immutably good, for He cannot be less good than He is; as there can be no addition made to Him, so no subtraction from Him.”

**Herman Bavinck**: “As the supreme good, God is also the overflowing fountain of all goods. No good exists in any creature except that which comes from and through him. He is the efficient, exemplary, and final cause of all good, however diverse it may be in creatures. All natural, moral, and spiritual good finds its source in him.”

**Good**: Complete or sufficiently perfect in its kind; having the qualities best adapted to its design and use; opposed to bad, imperfect, corrupted, impaired.

**The Goodness of God**: All that God is and does is perfectly good, and He alone is the final standard of good. There is such an absolute perfection in God’s nature and being that nothing is lacking or defective in Him, and nothing can be added to make Him better.

* **His attributes are good and due all human praise**

**Psalm 106:1** Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

* + **God’s goodness in His grace for believers**

**Psalm 31:19** 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!

**Psalm 31:21-24** Blessed be the Lord, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city. I had said in my alarm, “I am cut off from your sight.” But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I cried to you for help. Love the Lord, all you his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!

* + **No one is truly good and perfect except God; the wrath of God and the goodness of God**

**Romans 3:10-18** None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

**John Calvin**: “They [sinners] are in every way full of wickedness; for if they speak fair, they deceive and blend poison with their flatteries; but if they draw forth what they have in their hearts, bitterness and cursing stream out.”

**Jonathan Edwards**: “The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string, and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow, and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood…The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you and is dreadfully provoked. His wrath towards you burns like a fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the fire; he is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in his sight; you are ten thousand times more abominable in his eyes, than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn rebel did his prince. And yet it is nothing but his hand that holds you from falling into the fire every moment.”

**John Stott**: “God’s wrath against sin does not mean … that he is likely to fly off the handle at the most trivial provocation, still less that he loses his temper for no apparent reason at all. For there is nothing capricious or arbitrary about the holy God. Nor is he ever irascible [short-tempered], malicious, spiteful or vindictive. His anger is neither mysterious nor irrational. It is never unpredictable but always predictable, because it is provoked by evil and by evil alone.”

**James 1:13** Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

**James 1:12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**Psalm 26:2** Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

**James 1:2-4** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**James 1:14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

**Genesis 3:9-13** But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

**Acts 2:22-23** “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

**Romans 9:22-23** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

* + **God’s goodness toward all in creation**

**Acts 14:17** “Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

* **Conclusion, Encouragement, and Application**

**Psalm 34:8** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

**John Calvin**: “There is nothing on the part of God to prevent the godly, to whom he particularly speaks in this place, from arriving at the knowledge of his goodness by actual experience.”

**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.

**1 Thessalonians 5:14** … We urge you, brothers [Church], admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

**William Cowper, *There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood***: “There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel’s veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day; And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.”

**Psalm 106:1** Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!