

OUTLINE & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GOODNESS IN AN AGE OF CYNICISM

ERIC FERRIS | JUNE 13 & 14, 2026

GALATIANS 5:15-25

1. Are these _____ or _____?

_____ us

_____ Jesus

2. What is a _____ person?

3. What's the _____ of goodness?

4. What's the _____ of goodness?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

Icebreaker -Pastor Eric and his wife have a rule that a show must make it to season 3 before they'll watch it. What's a quirky rule or habit you have that other people might find a little odd?

1. Read Galatians 5:15-25. Pastor Eric asserted that "what we've been learning during this series is not just how to become more like the people God created us to be. We've also been learning how to be influential in our culture." How does the fruit of the Spirit make us influential?

2. The sermon drew a distinction between the fruit of the Spirit being both a description of a person and a behavior. Which do you think comes first? Do you act your way into becoming a certain kind of person, or does being a certain kind of person produce the actions? Based on Galatians 5:15-25 & Matthew 7:16-20, what would you say the role of the Holy Spirit is in all of this?

3. Ephesians 2:8-10 says we are "God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." What do you think it means that good works were prepared in advance for you specifically? Does that idea feel exciting, intimidating, or something else?

4. Pastor Eric's working definition of goodness is: goodness leaves people and things better than it found them. Does that definition work for you? What would you add to it or change?

5. The sermon said cynicism shows up as a) distrust of motives (nobody does anything purely), b) dismissal of possibility (nothing's going to change), c) protective disengagement (pulling back before you can be disappointed again). Which of those three do you think is most common in our culture right now? Which one are you most personally vulnerable to?

6. How does goodness combat cynicism?

Prayer Prompt/Application - The sermon closed with a prayer challenge Ask God for one moment of Spirit-directed goodness this week. Did you pray that? Has it already happened? If not, what could you do? Pray as a group.