

## **1 Youth Ministry** Grades 7-12

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## August 12, 2023 Calling Evil Good & Good Evil

## Contact Us

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#### <u>Links</u> Email Website Facebook Previous Lessons

### Foster Care Teens

Personal Care Items We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

This Week's Bible Verse

Hebrews 5:13-14

### Sunday

# Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil...

(Isaiah 5:20)

### Calling Evil Good & Good Evil

A few Sundays ago we discussed calling evil good. We started by talking about what makes a good person. We said that what we consider good or evil is often determined by our feelings which are often caused by our perception of the consequences. If we perceive that the consequences are good then our decision or action must have been good.

We said that the big problem with determining good or bad in this way is that what is good can be different for different people. It could even be different for the same person at different times, depending on the consequences. What is good or evil according to man can be very confusing sometimes.

We looked at **Hebrews 13:8** and **James 1:17** to see that God **IS** good and everything good comes from God. Also, God never changes.

That seems pretty simple so why is it so difficult for us to sometimes know what is good?

We looked at what King Solomon had to say in Proverbs 14:12 where it says there is a way that seems <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.<sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

### <u>Visit our</u> website here!

right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

We looked back to the beginning in **Genesis 3** where Eve said that the fruit looked **good** for food, **pleasing** to the eye, and **desirable** for gaining wisdom. Yet, eating it led to death (separation from God).

It all comes down to man's definition of good. Sometimes it gets even worse when we know something is evil but then we choose to do it anyway. We make it even worse when we make excuses or come up with reasons to justify it. The absolute worst is when we begin to call these evil things good things.

We looked at **Isaiah 5:20** to see just how bad it is for us when we call evil good. We also looked at Mark 10:17-18 where Jesus shows us that man's standard of good is based on the world while Jesus' standard of good is based on God.

We talked about how many different things we may encounter in our life that we may believe are good by our worldly standard or by what the world tells us is good but they are actually evil by God's standard.

So, how do we know what is good by God's standard so that we can avoid calling something evil good.

We found our answer in Hebrews 5:13-14 where it tells us we can be trained to "distinguish good from evil" by "constant use" of God's Word. By knowing God and His Word.

We said that Satan attempts to deceive us in the exact same way that he deceived Eve into calling something evil good and we need to be aware of his tactics in order to avoid being deceived.

The first thing Satan does is to get us to focus on the negative or on what we don't have. By staying focused on the goodness of God we don't give Satan a foothold.

Next, he will twist the Word of God to get us to doubt God's goodness and make it seem that something outside of God is good. All good things come from God and there is absolutely nothing good that is outside of God.

Finally, Satan will lead us to accept the worldly standard of good using our senses and emotions rather than following God's standard of good.

Having the "**knowledge of good and evil**" can be tricky

when it comes to distinguishing what is good and what is evil, especially when the world all around us is constantly encouraging us to call evil good.

By following the advice given in **Hebrews 5:13-14** and leaning on the Holy Spirit for guidance, we can learn how to distinguish evil from good in God's eyes.

## End of Summer Pizza Party!

Watch here for details of our end of summer Pizza Party!



### Coffee Q&A with Michelle after 1st service Every Sunday!

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, <u>after 1st service</u>, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.

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