



And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning the 6th day.

Genesis 1:31



God Created the World

by Carolynn Yancey

Last week, I was driving up Ladd Hill in Sherwood and over to the right was this sunset. I exclaimed to my son who was with me, "WOW! That is AMAZING, that's AWESOME!!" I was so enamored I had to pull over to take the picture. I knew that only the Creator could make a sky that beautiful, and it was so easy to see that in that moment that His creation was good.

Now, if we are honest about it, there are a few of God's creations that we struggle to call good. It's 1:00am, near Barstow California, and I was returning home from work. As I reached for the handle on my front door there was a HUGE tarantula right there!! I am pretty sure that thing was 3' in diameter!! AAAHHHH! Never once did I then, or do I now have any thought that spiders are good!



Genesis 1:31, is probably one of the most well-known verses in the bible. But as you read the chapter, notice that God uses the word good; and He does 6 more times in chapter 1 to describe His creation. God very intentionally called out separate parts of his creation, describing them, and then calling them good. On the 6th day, He was finished, He looked over it all again and called it Very Good. He could have easily lumped all of creation together in Vs. 31 and skipped right to very good, but the repetition shows us that God wanted us to know that every piece of His creation is good.

We often use the word good in a completely different context; usually it means that we are complying with a set of rules, or obeying. How many times do we tell our kids, “Be good.” Or that they get an award for “good behavior”. We often give our approval for someone’s performance saying, “Good job”. Good is a standard that, through our language, we assign to someone’s or something’s behavior, performance, or outcome. How many times do we say “It’s good enough.” When it is in reality, less than perfect? Let’s consider that God has a completely different definition for the word good.

Mark 10:18:

“And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.”

Matthew 5:48:

“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

God is good and God is perfect, and here we can see that when the word good is used in regard to God and His creation, it is synonymous with the word perfect. This definition isn’t just limited to Gods creation, but to His plans for our lives, His gifts for us, and His love – anything He creates. Imagine if we didn’t use the word good in our daily speaking as a measure of behavior or performance? Instead of saying, “They are a good person,” we would see people as God does, and say, “they are a perfect creation.” In our places of work, consider that God has blessed us with jobs and instead of saying, “I have a good job,” we would start to see God’s will for our lives as perfect — “I have the perfect job.” When we minimize the definition of a word in our daily speaking, we minimize that same word when we get into Scripture and see it there. Changing our use of the word good in our daily lives to only using it when it means perfect will bring so much clarity to God’s promises for us. Maybe then we can really start to understand God’s perfection, His perfect plan, and His love for us.

Application:

Here is a link to a Keyword Search for the words God & Good on Biblegateway.com:

- Go through and find verses that talk about God’s way, His will, His creation, His plan.
- Read them and as you do replace the word good with perfect, how does that change your perception of God, His will for your life, His creation?

https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=good+god&qs_version=NIV&limit=500

Questions:

1. What parts of God and His creation do you consider to be less than perfect? Is it people, His will for your life, His commands, the weather? – Make a list.
2. How does Gods description of His creation change your perspective of the things on your list?
3. How do you find yourself using the word “good” to describe things? Do you save that to talk about Gods perfection?
4. What do you say to yourself about you? Do you say, “I am good enough” Or do you say, I am a perfect creation?
5. How does this lesson bring you closer being obedient to God’s command to Love Him first and to love your neighbors as yourself? (Mark 12:31)
6. Where are 3 areas in your life today where you are going to change your conversation around the word good?

Prayer:

Father God, I know that you are good and perfect; Thank you for showing me in your Word how perfect you are, how good your creation is, that it is lacking in nothing. Forgive me Lord for the ways that I have minimized your perfection and your creation through the language I use. Thank you that you are perfect, and that you love me perfectly. Holy Spirit I pray that you will remind me today of these truths. Show me the impact when I do not regard your creation as perfect, and also, Lord, show me the blessings when I do. Thank you for your grace, for your perfect love, and your perfect plan in my life. In your good name, we pray, amen.

The Scots Confession Chapter 2 – 3.02

The Creation of Man

We confess and acknowledge that our God has created man, i.e., our first father, Adam, after his own image and likeness, to whom he gave wisdom, lordship, justice, free will, and self-consciousness, so that in the whole nature of man no imperfection could be found. From this dignity and perfection man and woman both fell; the woman being deceived by the serpent and man obeying the voice of the woman, both conspiring against the sovereign majesty of God, who in clear words had previously threatened death if they presumed to eat of the forbidden tree.