

EVERY WOMAN'S HOPE
THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S GOODNESS — PART TWO
Session 8 — February 8, 2023

THE BIG IDEA

God has revealed his perfection of integrity and truth in Scripture so that we can better understand who he is and glorify him. God's perfections describe him as both infinitely great and infinitely good.

The integrity of God displays his goodness. Scripture affirms that God is the source of truth, the final standard of truth, and that he "keeps (or guards) truth forever" (Ps 146:6).

OBJECTIVES FOR THIS SESSION

- 1) To understand and articulate the meaning of integrity and truth, the source of truth, the final standard of truth, and the application of truth to the life of the believer
- 2) To understand and be able to define the three dimensions of truth: 1) God's genuineness, 2) God's veracity, and 3) God's faithfulness
- 3) To deepen our worship, respect, and love for our good God.

KEY VERSE TO MEMORIZE

"But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king...." Jeremiah 10:10

—OR—

"God is not man, that He should lie.... Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?" Numbers 23:19

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD'S GOODNESS — PART TWO: HIS INTEGRITY

Definition: *Integrity* means the quality of being honest.... of being whole and undivided... of being unified, unimpaired.... an internal consistency or lack of corruption (New Oxford American Dictionary, excerpts).

Definition: *Truth* means that which conforms with reality and fact—or simply, what is real.

"The cluster of attributes classifying as integrity relates to the matter of truth. There are three dimensions of truthfulness: 1) genuineness— being true; 2) veracity— telling the truth; and 3) faithfulness—proving true. Although we think of truthfulness primarily as telling the truth, genuineness is the most basic dimension of truthfulness. The other two derive from it" (M. Erickson, *Introducing Christian Doctrine*, pg 101).

Therefore we can say that 1) God is true; 2) Because God is true he tells the truth; 3) Because God is true he proves true by keeping his promises.

A. GOD'S GENUINENESS — GOD IS TRUE IN HIS VERY ESSENCE

1. How do the following verses describe God's genuineness?

Deuteronomy 6:4
2 Samuel 22:32
Isaiah 45:5-6
Jeremiah 10:10
John 5:44
John 17:3
1 John 5:20

2. How does God differentiate Himself from false gods in the following verses?

Psalm 96:3-5
Psalm 115:3-8
Jeremiah 10:10-11
1 Thessalonians 1:9

B. GOD'S VERACITY — HE TELLS THE TRUTH

3. What do the following verses tell us about the truth of God's words?

Psalm 12:6
Psalm 19:9
2 Samuel 7:28
Psalm 119:151
Romans 3:4

4. Read John 17:17 and use Blue Letter Bible to look up the word truth (Strong's G225). What does it mean that God's word is truth?

5. God's veracity is one of His communicable attributes. Look at these verses and write down some ways believers can practice truthfulness in their own lives. Pay attention to the action words ("laying aside" "put on" etc.).

Ephesians 4:25
Proverbs 4:24
Colossians 3:9-10
Psalm 19:14
Proverbs 13:5

C. GOD'S FAITHFULNESS — HE PROVES TRUE

6. Meditate on God's promises in scripture. What are some of the ways that God has been faithful to keep His promises in your own life? If you need some ideas look at the following verses.

Matthew 7:9-11

Matthew 11:28-30

Philippians 4:6-7

Hebrews 11:6

James 1:5

1 John 1:9

7. God's integrity is one of the ways that His goodness is displayed to us. How has studying these three dimensions of God's integrity—genuineness, veracity, and faithfulness—deepened your understanding of God's goodness toward you?