

Full Steam Ahead: Do Good! Outline by Rick Dietzman, Associate Pastor

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

"You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good (TOV) and evil (RA), for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:17

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-12

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin." Romans 3:20

Versus... "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer." 1 Peter 3:12

"So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Romans 7:21-24

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good (AGATHOS) works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10

AGATHOS – inherently (intrinsically) good; describes what originates from God and is empowered by him in the believer's life, through faith.

It's directly analogous to TOV!

"Whoever would love life and see good (Agatha) days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good (AGATHOS); they must seek peace and pursue it.¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:10-12

"And we know that in all things God works for the good (AGATHON) of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."

Romans 8:28

An unhealthy or toxic culture has missed getting Agathon right. Peter instructs us on how to grow a "culture of goodness"

1. The Qualities of Goodness

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. " 1 Peter 3:8

- Like-minded (unity)
- Sympathetic
- Love one another (brotherly love)
- Compassionate
- Humble

2. The Threat to Goodness

"Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing." 1 Peter 3:9

"So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me."
Romans 7:21

"Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. " Romans 6:13-14

3. The Words of Goodness

"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech." 1 Peter 3:10

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29

4. The Pursuit of Goodness

"They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it." 1 Peter 3:11

"Offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness." Romans 8:13

5. The Anchor of Goodness

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 1 Peter 3:12

The way God comes against evil is the surprise. *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (AGATHO)!" Romans 12:21*

SCC Small Group Discussion

Full Steam Ahead: Do Good!

Derived from a sermon on July 19, 2026 by Rick Dietzman, Associate Pastor

Getting Started:

Opener: What do you think is the secret to happiness? What are some things that bring you the greatest joy?

What does it mean to live “a good life”?

Searching the Scriptures:

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12

⁸Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

1. Verses 8-9 describes God’s calling. How do these commands reflect what you typically think about or do?
2. What could we do to strengthen the harmony of our own church?
3. What do you think it means to be “like-minded”?

4. What do you think Peter means by saying that we “can inherit a blessing”? What is the blessing?
5. What does it mean to “love life” and see good days? Is there a right and a wrong way to do this?
6. How does lying demonstrate that we do not love our life or care about doing good?
7. Why is peace something we have to pursue and not something that just comes upon us? How do we pursue peace?
8. How does pursuing peace help us overcome evil with good? (See Romans 12:21)

Application

How could we handle a disagreement within the group in a way that demonstrates God’s goodness?

How might the hope of our inheriting a blessing help us to persevere in the difficult work of peace-making?

Get discussion questions in word format & link to Bible App plan for this week at www.sequimcommunitychurch.org/downloads