

The Common Good: Flourishing Church

First Baptist Church Chattanooga

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Wednesday, January 6, 2021

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good...” **Genesis 1: 31**

1. When the word good is used in our culture, what does the word “good” typically mean?
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The Hebrew word for good in this text is *tov* – meaning **beneficial, fairing-well, perpetual life, flourishing.**

2. In the context of the text, why does God view creation as “good”? Does this differ from the cultural definition of “good”? Is so, how?
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If we apply the full range of *toṽ* to humanity (Adam and Eve), it reveals God's intentions more fully. God gives his life to them and lives with them. God is the source of their life and nourishes their souls. God flows through them as they work together **to bring nurture, care and flourishing** to the plants and animals in the Garden of Eden. As God communes with them, so they carry God's image. There is nothing that shields them from each other or from their God. They are open to each other and open to God. This is good.

4. Using your own words, define **God's Common Good** or **The Common Good**.

The scriptures outline Jesus taught people to seek **God's Common Good** or **The Common Good**. How do the following scriptures lead to seeking God's Common Good?

Mark 12: 30 - 31

Philippians 2: 4

Matthew 25: 31 – 40

Matthew 6: 24
