

# On the Beginning

## 2. God Is Good

NOTE ESPECIALLY Genesis 1:9-31

Many people question the goodness of God after experiencing the disappointments and hardships of life. To them, the Bible gives a clear answer in the very first chapter! God is good, and He made all things “*very good*.” It was something that spoiled God’s good creation (presented in Genesis 3) that brought the pain, the sin, the death, the sickness, the evil, and the hardships of the world into being!

### 1. God’s Original Creation Was Good!

As God created (vs. 1, 21, 27) and made (vs. 7, 16, 25, 26) all things in six days, He pronounced all of it “*good*” (See vs. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31).

*“And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”* (Genesis 1:31)

The creation that the good Creator created was absolutely good in every way. At the beginning it included no evil, no sickness, no sorrow, no death, no injustice, no hospitals, no divorce, no crime, no funerals, nothing bad! Genesis 1 is God’s “*disclaimer*.” He is saying that any evil we experience in life is *not* from Him!

### 2. God is Moral and He Is Good!

Calling things “*good*” or “*not good*” (Genesis 2:18) tells us a lot about God. He makes judgments, discerning the difference between what is good and what is not. God is innately moral. He has opinions. What His opinions are determines if something is good or bad. He is not just the First Cause, the force that brought everything into being. He is a Person, separate from His creation, with attributes, some of which are moral. I John 1 refers back to Genesis 1 when it says,

*“... God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth...”* (1 John 1:5b and 6)

### 3. Certain Things About Creation are Particularly Good!

a. Light as opposed to darkness (vs. 2-4, also vs. 17-18).

b. Distinction between land and sea, and also between types of life (vs. 9-12, also vs. 20-25).

God makes a difference, even in what He made. There is a difference between plant and animal, between night and day, between male and female, between land and sea. Differences are good in the sight of God. To erase differences and distinctions is to return to the formlessness of verse 2. We should not rebel against the distinctions God has made.

### 4. Man Was Given a Special Role!

Read again Genesis 1:26-31. Man was to “*have dominion*” over God’s creation. This role as God’s ruler was marred by the Fall of Man (See Hebrews 2:5-9), but it was a good part of God’s original creation. Man was to discover the wonders of what God had made, and harness it for his use and for God’s glory. Being made in God’s image, man could commune with the Creator as no other creature could. His communion with God could make him master of all that God had made. To this exalted role, God’s plan of redemption is designed to restore fallen man. However, even in his fallen state, man by science and industry seeks to dominate “*nature*” for his benefit. Sadly, it is seldom done for God’s glory.