

How good is the “good” person?

It is interesting the many different definitions of what being a good person is. For example, one person may think that being “good” is someone who has a high code of ethics while another person thinks that “good” is never killing anyone. Everyone must agree that it is not what someone does that makes him good but rather his motivation for why he does what he does. It may appear that someone is a very good person but what is not always apparent is that the motivation is not really on high moral grounds. One time somebody called Jesus “Good Teacher” and he said there is none good except God alone. The Bible says in Romans 3:10 “There is no one righteous, not even one;”. Romans 3:23 also says “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”. If the Bible and Jesus says that there is no one righteous why do people think they are righteous? Is it possible that a person can be self-deceived? I propose yes!

I remember in my life when I was around 18-20 years of age trying to conjure up good thoughts and intentions all to no avail. I was trying to be good depending on what I could do. And I remember the feeling of being acutely aware of my own inadequacy to make myself good which made me increase my effort towards my goal all that much more! I was living like the squirrel in the cage going nowhere and working so hard at it! This effort at being good was bringing on feelings of hopelessness and sadness & I was discovering that I could not make myself good to my satisfaction. And it was at that point that I began to look beyond myself and I made the discovery that Jesus died for my sins that he might make me righteous. I could not “help” Jesus in his work except only to trust him in what he had done for me. Second Corinthians 5:21 says “*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*” No matter how hard a person may try he can’t change who he is. A cat cannot “bark” no matter how hard he tries—the best he can do is call a “Meow” a “bark”. The Bible says everybody is a slave to themselves so why not can we simply believe what God says and trust His work done for us when He died on that cross and rose again 3 days later? Romans 10:13 says... “*For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*” Would you call on Jesus today to be changed by Him: that he might be your Lord and Savior? Paul says in Romans 1:16: “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, ...*” If we could change ourselves then why did Jesus come for us to suffer, die and rise again? On this point Paul says in Galatians 2:21: “*I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law [our own efforts], then Christ died for no purpose. Galatians 2:21*”