

## Good and Evil/Life and Death

Study by Lauren Perski

Read Genesis 1. List everything that is good. List everything that is alive. Is everything that is good alive? Is everything that is alive good? Break into groups; have everybody go through Genesis 1 and look. ~10 Minutes. Discuss what was found.

What makes something good? Bonhoeffer: "It means that the world lives completely in the presence of God, that it begins and ends in him and that he is its Lord." So things are good when they are as God intends them to be.

Read Genesis 1:26-31, 2:15-17. What does God intend man to be? Back into groups for this. Give ~5-10 minutes.

Read Genesis 2:4-9. What is at the center of the garden? Is that surprising? The tree of life gives life to people who eat of it. Is the tree of life inside of people or outside of them? So do people receive life from within themselves, or do they have to get it from outside? How is this different from God? Why eating does the tree of knowledge of good and evil bring death? What connects good and evil?

So God intended man to be alive, and our lives were to be sustained by him. After eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, God no longer sustains our lives; we must now sustain them ourselves. Is this how God intended things to be? So can man as a whole be good anymore? Why not? Because we're not alive anymore.

What's the difference between man and God? God derives His existence from Himself; man does not.

So can "bad people" do good things? Why doesn't doing good things make us good people? Goodness doesn't bring life; it is an outworking of life.

Read Genesis 3:22-23. So how do we get life? Look at Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Proverbs 4:4-9. What gives people life in this passage? Are God's intentions for His people different after the Fall than before? What brings death? Does this differ from what caused us to fall in the first place? Back into groups.

The Israelites connected life with following God's commandments and having faith in His promises. The plot has unfolded more since then, and we'll be discussing that in further studies.

What are areas in our lives as graduate students that we try to sustain on our own?  
How can we submit them to God?  
How have you seen God's restoration in your life?  
How can we bring life to the Hopkins campus?

Pray.