

## THE SNARE OF BEING A GOOD PERSON

Elaine McLachlan

We are trained as children to be "good". This is not clearly defined but, generally speaking, we are supposed to exercise self-control, which is good! It often means, however, conforming to the standard of the person training us, or what they see as a required standard at least, whether they personally conform or not.

Jesus, however, has a completely different standard. When a rich ruler came to him and called him "good", Jesus asked him why – no-one is good except God alone. The ruler was comfortable with the fact that he faithfully kept the 5 commandments that Jesus mentioned. It did not occur to him to examine himself about the other 5 as listed in the Law of Moses which he said he believed – 5 out of 10 seemed a reasonable balance!

God's own standard is "Be perfect", ie, 10 out of 10! The Bible warns us that there is no-one that is righteous, no-one that is good – everyone does only what is "good" in their own eyes.

However Jesus was different. He always did "good" and, because he conformed to the Father's wishes in all respects, he reflected the perfect image of God in His human form.

### **So "goodness" is being a reflection of God in this world.**

There is only one way to do this – to have God indwelling us so that gradually we change to be more like Him.

There is only one way to have God dwelling in us.

Jesus says "I am the way, the truth, the life". We ask Jesus to come into our hearts by his Holy Spirit – this is the way. The Holy Spirit convinces us of the truth, and by being born of the Holy Spirit in our hearts a new life begins in us. That is why we call this experience being "born again", which Jesus says must happen if we desire to live in the Kingdom of God.

Don't settle for 50% good, or even 60 or 70%. Receive Jesus and be transformed to 100% by the Holy Spirit. Be filled ... over and over again. Take this opportunity now, even as you have been reminded. Never say "No" to the Holy Spirit. He ALWAYS blesses us!