

The following is proposed as a definition of goodness:

The goodness of God is that characteristic by which, for the benefit and well-being of His creatures, He manifests His delight in those reflections of the perfections of His nature which are found in them

Goodness includes benevolence, love, mercy, grace, and lovingkindness.

Benevolence is God's concern for the welfare of all conscious beings, expressed in the outpouring of benefits on them

Love is a settled purpose of desire and will to seek the well-being of the one loved. Agape-love is love that involves some form of sacrifice on the part of the lover

Mercy is kindness toward the miserable. It includes pity, compassion, longsuffering, and gentleness

Grace is unmerited favor toward unworthy, guilty sinners. It is "everything for nothing to those who deserve the exact opposite." It is God's favor to those who deserve wrath and condemnation. It takes two basic forms: common grace and special grace. It may also be distinguished in various modes, such as preparatory (or prevenient) grace, saving, grace, enabling grace, overcoming grace, dying grace, etc.

Lovingkindness is God's covenant favor toward His people