

THOUGHTS ON PLEASING GOD

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Colossians 1:9-14

1. A desire to please is a motivational factor in the lives of most people.
2. This desire to please often manifests itself in the selfish desire to please oneself.
3. Then there is the desire to please others.
 - a. Negative-conforming our conduct to please others for the wrong reasons-yielding to peer pressure, desiring praise, trying to manipulate.
 - b. Positive-conforming our conduct to please others for their good.

Rom 15:1-3

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. 2 **Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good**, to his edification. 3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."

1 Cor 10:31-33

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; 33 **just as I also please all men in all things**, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, so that they may be saved.

1 Cor 9:19-23

19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. 22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. 23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

NOTE: Not everyone is going to appreciate our desire to please them for their good.

4. For the Christian the overriding principle should be the desire to please God.
 - a. Gal 1:9-10

9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! 10 For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.
 - b. Eph 5:6-10

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk as children of Light** 9(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 **trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.**

c. 2 Cor 5:9-10

9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

d. 1 Thess 4:1

Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

e. 1 John 3:22

22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

5. In praying for the Colossians Paul emphasized four things that please God because he wanted them to please God in all respects. 10

I. Knowledgeable living pleases God (increasing in the knowledge of God). 9-10

A. God wants us to know Him; not just about Him.

B. Our love, devotion, and service must spring from a personal relationship with God that is the outgrowth of a personal knowledge of God.

a. John 4:22-25

22 " You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

b. 2 Peter 1:4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

C. As we walk in obedience to God our (experiential) knowledge of Him will increase. John 14:21-24

21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

II. Fruitful living pleases God (bearing fruit in every good work). 10

A. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

B. He continued, "By this is My Father glorified (and pleased) that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples (followers)." John 15:8

C. We bear fruit by manifesting the life of Christ thereby impacting the lives of others for Christ.

III. Powerful living pleases God (strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience). 11

- A. As we saw in 2 Peter 1:2-3 God has provided everything pertaining to life and godliness.
- B. "For in Him (Jesus) all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete." Col 2:9-10
- C. Our problem is not one of supply but of appropriation. Hebrews 12:14
"See to it that no one comes short of (fails to appropriate) the grace of God."

IV. Thankful living pleases God (joyously giving thanks to the Father). 12

- A. Our God has committed Himself to our care and keeping. Heb 13:5-6
5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," 6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL (mere) MAN DO TO ME?"
- B. God's commitment to us should elicit continuous praise and thanksgiving to God. Heb 13:15-16
Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. 16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.
- C. Since our loving God oversees all aspects of our lives we can continually rejoice in Him, continuously pray, and give thanks no matter what is going on in our lives.
1 Thess 5:16-18
16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

APPLICATION

- 1. As we grow in Christlikeness we will be increasingly pleasing to God.
 - a. "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." Mark 1:11
 - b. 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." John 8:29
- 2. Pleasing God and power in prayer go hand in hand.
 - a. John 15:7
7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
 - b. 1 John 3:20-22
21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
- 3. Are you motivated, first and foremost, by a desire to please God?