

LIVING TO PLEASE GOD

OCTOBER 15, 2017

COLOSSIANS 1:9-10 (ESV)

Paul wants these believers to learn to live their lives in a way that pleases God, not themselves, or others. What about us? Do we know what God expects of us? Do we know what pleases Him? Jesus did! **JOHN 8:29** The father acknowledged it. **MATTHEW 3:17** Since we are to follow His example, I want to answer some questions about pleasing God in our study today.

WHY SHOULD WE LIVE TO PLEASE GOD?

1. The coming judgment.
 - A. **ROMANS 14:12, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:9-10 (NLT)** – One day we all give an account of our lives before Christ.
 - B. It's easy to live as if this day isn't before us.
 - C. This should be a powerful motivation for all of us.
2. To show our love for God.
 - A. **JOHN 15:14** – “If!” He gives us unspeakable joy, blessings untold, assurance of eternal glory, and peace beyond understanding, why wouldn't we want to please Him?
 - B. We're already accepted by Him because of Jesus. Now our primary aim should be to live to please Him.
3. The benefits.
 - A. **PROVERBS 16:7** – He turns our enemies into friends.
 - B. **1 THESSALONIANS 4:1 (AMPC)** – It promotes abundant life.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PLEASE GOD?

1. Learning to live by faith, over feelings or reason.
 - A. **HEBREWS 11:5-6** – God wants us to trust Him and depend on Him not ourselves. **PROVERBS 3:5-6** – He knows what's best for us.
2. Discovering and doing what pleases Him according to His Word.
 - A. How can we please Him if we don't know what pleases Him?

- B. If we're not interested in finding out, how can we say we love Him. His Word reveals what He expects from us.
 - **HEBREWS 13:16 (AMPC), COLOSSIANS 3:20, 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8 (NIV), 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11 (NLT)** - We're on the honor system.
- 3. Maintaining a right heart attitude toward Him and His Word.
 - A. **1 THESSALONIANS 2:4 (NLT)** – Pleasing God is a heart matter.
 - B. **1 SAMUEL 16:7** – The internal is more important than the external.

HOW CAN WE PLEASE GOD?

- 1. By being spiritually minded.
 - A. **ROMANS 8:4-8 (NLT)** – The flesh wants to please itself.
 - B. **HEBREWS 13:20-21 (NLT)** – He provides the help.
 - C. Jerry Lee Lewis: “I was raised in a Christian home, but I couldn't make it...too weak I guess. I don't want to die and go to hell, but I don't think I'm heading in the right direction. I'm lost and undone, without God. I should have been a Christian, but I was too weak for the gospel. We will all have to answer to God on Judgment Day.”
- 2. By not allowing ourselves to get entangled with worldly things.
 - A. **2 TIMOTHY 2:4** – Moses chose God over all Egypt had to offer.
 - B. **1 JOHN 2:15-17 (NLT)** – Feeding our hunger for God creates passion.
- 3. By serving others.
 - A. **MATTHEW 20:27-28** – Jesus came to serve others.
 - B. **1 JOHN 3:16** – We owe it to Him to do the same.
 - C. **EPHESIANS 4:1-3** – We walk worthy by staying humble, avoiding strife, showing love, and promoting unity.

CONCLUSION: We please God by learning to live by faith, not feeling or reason; by living for eternity, not this life; by serving others. Are we pleasing Him? He will help us if we ask!