





# Loving God:

Desiring to Please Him




## Definition of Loving God

- To love God is to self-sacrificially commit oneself
  - to delight in Him,
  - to rejoice in serving Him,
  - to desire continually to please Him,
  - to seek one’s happiness in Him, and
  - to thirst day and night for a fuller enjoyment of Him.




## Jesus pleased Him in Everything

- Jesus models this kind of love for us
  - **John 8:29** “... I always do those things that please [the Father].”
  - **John 15:10** “... I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”
  - **John 4:34** Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”



## Paul’s Aim: Pleasing in Everything


- Paul models this kind of love for us
  - **2 Cor. 5:9** Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to [the Lord].
    - “present” – alive here on earth
    - “absent” – gone from the earth to heaven
    - “make it our aim” – this is the target Paul shoots at in everything he does.
  - Key Question: Will this please Jesus?



## Paul’s Aim: Pleasing in Everything

- The Reasons Paul aims to please
  1. **2 Cor. 5:10-11** – the Judgment Seat of Christ the “terror of the Lord”
 

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; ...



## Paul’s Aim: Pleasing in Everything

2. **2 Cor. 5:14-15** – the love of Christ
 

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

## Paul's Prayer: fully pleasing Him

- Paul prays for the Colossians ...
  - Col. 1:9-10 we ... ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, **pleasing Him fully**, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

## Paul's Admonition

- Paul admonishes the Ephesians
  - Ephesians 5:8-10** but now *that* you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable [pleasing] to the Lord.
  - God wants us to seek diligently to find out what pleases Him.

## Practical Steps to Pleasing God

- Step One: Learn what God says pleases Him
  1. There is no area of our lives that God doesn't care about.
    - ◆ Col. 1:10 "fully pleasing Him" means **pleasing him in all things**.

## Practical Steps to Pleasing God

2. In order to please the Lord we must be filled with the knowledge of His will.
  - God's will is nothing more than what God wants in any situation.
  - How do we become filled with the knowledge of His will?
    - Primarily through studying Scripture

## This is the will of God...

- Sexual purity
  - **1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;
  - 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,
  - 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;
  - 6 *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*.

## This is the will of God...

- Silence the ignorance of foolish men by doing right
  - **1 Peter 2:13** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,
  - 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
  - 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

## This is the will of God...



–Suffering for Jesus' sake

- **1 Pet. 4:19** Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

–Being filled with the Holy Spirit

- **Ephesians 5:17-18** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

## Review: Pleasing God in Everything



- Step One: Learn what God says pleases Him
  1. God cares about every area of our lives.
  2. In order to please the Lord we must be filled with the knowledge of His will.

## Faith: The Indispensable Key



- Step Two: Obedient Faith

–**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

## Faith: The Indispensable Key



- Three Elements of Faith

1. Faith believes what God says
  - There is a God (“believes that he is”)
  - He rewards those who seek Him (“he is a rewarder of those who seek Him”)

## Faith: The Indispensable Key



- Three Elements of Faith

2. Faith does what God requires
  - God requires us to seek him
3. Faith trusts in and rests on God's promises
  - ◆ God has promised that He will reward us.
  - ◆ Faith is completely confident and rests without worry or doubt.

## Faith: The Indispensable Key



- **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
  - “Substance” = assurance, being completely sure
  - “evidence” = certainty, conviction
  - This verse describes faith's attitude as it rests on God's promises.

### Phil. 4:6-7 – Faith at Work



- Phil. 4:6-7 provides a concrete example of what pleases God:
  - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

### Phil. 4:6-7 – Faith at Work



- “be anxious” = worry. To worry is to be distressed as you think about something that you cannot control.
  - An upset stomach or muscle tenseness is often a sign of worry.
- “prayer” = talking to God
- “supplication” = urgent request to meet a need (BDAG)

### Phil. 4:6-7 – Faith at Work



- When we worry, we are telling God we do not trust Him.
- Do you believe that God will supply all your need according to His riches in glory? (Phil. 4:19)
  - What have you been worrying about rather than taking to God in faith?

### Choosing the Excellent



- Phil. 1:9-11

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,  
10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,  
11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

### Choosing the Excellent



- Love abounding in knowledge
  - When you know more about a person you love, you can delight in them more.
  - God wants our love for Him to abound in knowledge.
    - What practical steps are you taking so that your knowledge of God is growing?

### Choosing the Excellent



- Love abounding in discernment
  - KJV “judgment” = discernment
  - The more you know about a person you love, the more you can please them.
    - Illustration: wife and cards vs flowers/candy
- Approving what is excellent
  - “approve” = put to the test, examine carefully

## Choosing the Excellent

- “excellent” = lit. things that differ.
  - Distinguishing bad from good
  - Distinguishing good, better, and best
- Discernment questions
  - Is there anything wrong with it?
    - **1 Cor. 6:12a** All things are lawful for me ...
    - “lawful” = anything that is not explicitly or implicitly forbidden by Scripture

## Choosing the Excellent

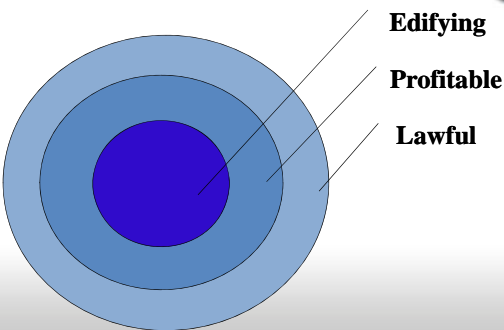
- Is it profitable?
  - **1 Cor. 6:12b** but all things are not expedient
  - “expedient” = generally beneficial, profitable
  - Examples of profitable choices:
    - » **Proverb 17:22** A merry heart does good like a medicine: ...
    - » **1 Timothy 4:8** For bodily exercise profits for a little *while*: but godliness is profitable for all *time* ...

## Choosing the Excellent

- Is it addictive to me?
  - **1 Cor. 6:12d** but I will not be brought under the power of any.
  - “brought under the power of” = to be controlled by or addicted to.
  - An addiction is anything that controls your behavior, particularly anything that causes you to give it greater value than other things that are truly more valuable.

## Choosing the Excellent

- Is it edifying?
  - **1 Cor. 10:23** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.
  - “edify” = to build up spiritually



**Edifying**  
**Profitable**  
**Lawful**

## Choosing the Excellent

- Can I do it in Jesus’ name?
  - **Col. 3:17** And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
  - To do something “in the name of” someone, is to do it as their representative or upon their authority.

## Choosing the Excellent



- Will it reflect the unique excellence of God's character?
  - **1 Cor. 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
  - The primary sense of God's "glory" is the unique excellence of His character and being.
  - We are called to reflect the unique excellence of His character in all we do.

## Choosing the Excellent



- That you may be sincere
  - "sincere" = pure, spotless
  - Illustration: Greek marble vase market
- That you may be without offense
  - "without offense" = blameless in your relationships.
  - No one can point their finger at you and say they did me wrong and never repented.

## Pleasing Him in Everything



- Our attitude toward obedience is an index of our love:
  - Dutiful, grudging, constrained, "If I have to" obedience shows a lack of love.
  - Glad, cheerful, prompt, desiring-to-please obedience shows an abounding love.
- David's attitude:
  - Psalm 119:5 *Oh, that my ways were directed To keep Your statutes!*

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