

THOUGHTS ON PLEASING THE LORD

Revelation 4:11

Introduction: God created mankind for the sole purpose of bringing Him honor, praise, and pleasure. We are to *"...love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind..."* Giving thought to that verse, just how often however, have we ever thought about "pleasing the Lord?" *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Rev. 4:11)*

1. Pleasing the Lord should be the great ambition of every Christian's heart. One of the outstanding reminders and motives for doing so is the fact that one day we shall stand before the Lord someday and be judged for our thoughts, deeds and words, upon which any reward will be granted.
2. Pleasing the Lord is not only the main concern for every Christian, but also something which every Christian should seek to excel in, not just to be accepted but primarily out of love for the Lord.
3. The ability to please the Lord is ultimately the result of what He has done in one's life as Savior and Lord.
4. Pleasing the Lord involves not only discovering but doing what pleases the Lord through living in the light of the Word of God. Pleasing the Lord involves doing what He wants and finding what He wants is found through prayer and reading the Word.
5. Pleasing the Lord has to begin in the heart, there must be a sincerity in wanting to please the Lord.
6. Pleasing the Lord instead of others should be the reason for ministry, for marriage, and for just about everything the Christian does IF the Lord is indeed first in that person's life.
7. Whenever one fails to please the Lord, he/she gradually and ultimately becomes useless and sometimes even hostile not only to God but to those around him/her, as well as miserable on the inside.
8. Those who are not Christians, who have not believed in Jesus, and those who are believers, Christians but are still walking in the flesh just cannot please God. One cannot begin to please God until one becomes a family member and then a family member who is out of the Father's will, just cannot please Him.
9. Pleasing God involves learning how to live for others and not just for one's self. One must learn how to put others ahead of him/herself.
10. The old sin nature is a constant threat and enemy to the Christian who is trying to please the Lord and in ministering to others because of the inherent selfishness which prevents the Holy Spirit from enabling one to be able to please the Lord. It is a continual war between the old sin nature and the new nature the Christian has been given.

11. Pleasing God involves every area of a person's life, there can be no reservations, no secret, private compartments, one's total being has to be involved when pleasing God.
12. When pleasing God, it involves every place in a person's life thus home, work, play, etc. There can be no "blocked" out/off place that God isn't allowed in.
13. The Christian needs to be aware and on alert for entanglements which would hinder his/her capacity to please the Lord such as one's activities, relationships, letting nothing and no person come between him/her and his/her business and ministry for the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

1. Each of us is different and have different things which influence and affect our efforts in trying to please the Lord. None of us are the same, therefore each of us have different strengths and weaknesses.
2. None of us do our very best all of the time in pleasing the Lord. We all have our weaknesses.
3. Of all the people on earth, whose sole purpose in life should be to please the Lord? Should it not be Christians? God's own family? People like us?
4. Take a look at yourself. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses in trying to please the Lord? Reinforce your strengths, work on those weaknesses and do your very best to live the rest of your life trying to please the Lord. Just maybe you might one day hear those wonderful words, "*...well done thou good and faithful servant...*"