

How to Please God

How to Please God
A Lesson on Authority

Hebrews 11:6

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- 6 And **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 seek Him.

How To Please God

- **Faith is conviction and assurance**
- **Hebrews 11:1-2**

Hebrews 11:1-2

- 1 Now **faith is the assurance** of things hoped for, **the conviction** of things not seen. 2 For by it the men of old gained approval.

How To Please God

- Faith is conviction and assurance
- Faith is demonstrated by obedient action
- Hebrews 11:4, 7, 8

Hebrews 11:4

- 4 **By faith Abel offered** to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

Hebrews 11:7

- 7 **By faith Noah**, being warned by God about things not yet seen, **in reverence prepared an ark** for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and **became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith**.

Hebrews 11:8

- 8 **By faith Abraham**, when he was called, **obeyed** by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

How To Please God

- **We see this faith in action when demonstrated by Abraham was told by God to offer his son, Isaac**
- **Hebrews 11:17**

Hebrews 11:17

- 17 **By faith Abraham**, when he was tested, **offered up Isaac**; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;

How To Please God

- **We see this faith in action when demonstrated by Abraham was told by God to offer his son, Isaac**
- **Hebrews 11:17 – We are told he did this by faith**
- **James 2:21-23**

James 2:21-23

- 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that **faith was working with his works**, and **as a result** of the works, **faith was perfected**; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And **Abraham believed God**, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.

How To Please God

- To please God we must obey Him
- I John 2:4-5

I John 2:4-5

- 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 **but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected.** By this we know that we are in Him:

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

- 13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: **fear God and keep His commandments**, because this applies to every person. 14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

How To Please God

- How do we know what God expects of us today?
- Almost all “Christian” religions of today would basically agree that we are to follow the Bible
- The Bible is God’s word to mankind
- It is inspired of (or by) God
- II Timothy 3:16-17

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- 16 **All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

How To Please God

- **The Bible is God's word to mankind**
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- **II Timothy 3:16-17**
- **II Peter 1:20-21**

II Peter 1:20-21

- 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**

How To Please God

- So to please God, we must believe in Him as God
- Believe the Bible to be His will for us to obey
- Study, learn, understand and then apply it in our lives
- To properly understand and apply it, we must be able to handle it accurately
- II Timothy 2:15

II Timothy 2:15

- 15 **Be diligent to present yourself approved to God** as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **handling accurately the word of truth.**

II Peter 3:15-16

- 15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which **the untaught and unstable distort**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Handling Accurately the Word

- The Bible is comprised of 3 different ways that God has dealt with mankind
- The age of the fathers or patriarchs
- From Adam to the giving of the Law
- Mosaic For Israel – the Law of Moses
- For the Gentiles – continued as in the age of the fathers until the establishment of the church (Acts 2)

Handling Accurately the Word

- The age of the fathers or patriarchs
- Mosaic
- For Israel – the Law of Moses
- For the Gentiles – continued as in the age of the fathers until the establishment of the church (Acts 2)
- Christian age – All are under the law of Christ

Handling Accurately the Word

- **Today we are not under the Law of Moses but are subject to Christ and His law (or teaching)**
- **Matthew 28:18** **He claims all authority**
- **Matthew 17:4-5** **God said listen to His Son**
- **Hebrews 1:1-2**
- **Hebrews 7:11-12**

Hebrews 7:11-12

- 11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron? 12 **For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.**

Hebrews 8:7-8

- 7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will effect a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

Hebrews 8:13

- 13 When He said, "A new covenant," **He has made the first obsolete**. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

James 1:25

- 25 But one who looks intently at **the perfect law, the law of liberty**, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but **an effectual doer**, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- In light of our studies of church history and the evolution of the many churches today
- And especially how the churches of Christ as we know them; what makes us different or sets us apart?
- Probably the turning point was made when Thomas Campbell made the declaration of intent to follow the Bible and only the Bible in seeking to serve God

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- “Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent.” Thomas Campbell
- Is this not the same as what Paul said in II Timothy 3:16-17?

II Timothy 3:16-17

- 16 **All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 **that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.**

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- As we seek to know the will of God, there are 3 ways we can know what is right
- When God gives a direct command to do or not do something
 - Acts 2:38 On the day of Pentecost
 - Acts 10:48 Peter to Cornelius
 - Colossians 3:16 Sing

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- **When God gives a direct command to do or not do something we are to obey it**
- **Acts 2:38 On the day of Pentecost**
- **Acts 10:48 Peter to Cornelius**
- **Colossians 3:16 We are to sing**
- **I Corinthians 16:2 We are to give a contribution**

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- When God gives a direct command to do or not do something we are to obey it
- When we have an approved example it is right for us to follow it
- Acts 20:7
- Why we take the Lord's supper on the first day of the week

Acts 20:7

- 7 And **on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread**, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- When we have an approved example it is right for us to follow it
- Philippians 4:15-16
- How the church is to go about supporting a preacher in another place – the money is sent directly to the preacher

Philippians 4:15-16

- 15 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, **no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone**; 16 for even in Thessalonica **you sent a gift more than once for my needs**.

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- When we have an approved example it is right for us to follow it
- Acts 11:27-30
- In church benevolence, the money was sent from one church to the elders of the receiving church – the elders distributed to those under their care that were in need

Acts 11:27-30

- 27 Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.

Acts 11:27-30

- 29 And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to **send a contribution for the relief of the brethren** living in Judea. 30 And **this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.**

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- When God gives a direct command to do or not do something we are to obey it
- When we have an approved example it is right for us to follow it

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- When we have a command or an approved example but are not given the specifics of how/where or when, we can use our judgment for what is expedient to do what is inferred
- But to be expedient or inferred, it must be what is approved – in other words, it does not add to, change or take away from that which is approved by God

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- **Example: We are told to sing**
- **We can use books or overhead to see the song**
- **We can use something to get the pitch**
- **We are still just singing – nothing added or changed**
- **If we add an instrument to our singing we have done just that – add to what is approved**

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- **Example:** We are told to preach the gospel to the lost
- The church can pay the local preacher or send money directly to one in another place
- When the church sends money to an organization outside the church, it has changed what is done in the approved example

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HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- **Example:** The church is told to help needy saints
- The church can supply those needs for members of its own or send money to the elders of another church for the needs of the members of that church
- When the church sends money to an organization outside the church or when multiple churches send money to a sponsoring church (where those elders oversee the work for all the churches), it has changed what is done in the approved examples

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- **Example:** The church is to teach, preach, worship and carry on benevolence for its members
- **It is not the work of the church to supply social activities or sports or educational needs**
- **So sending support for these or building facilities to do these does not have the approval of God**

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- **Another thing to be understood in order to handle accurately the word of God is the difference between the individual and the church**
- **An individual may do things (even be commanded to do them) that we have no command or example for the church to do**

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- The individual is to do good to all men Galatians 6:10
- The church is to take care of need saints Acts 11:27-30
- We see this difference clearly shown in Acts 5 with Ananias and Sapphira
- Acts 5:4

Acts 5:4

- 4 "While it remained unsold, **did it not remain your own?** And after it was sold, **was it not under your control?** Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- One of the greatest problems in agreeing how to decide authority and therefore how to properly interpret the Scripture has been related to deal with the silence of Scripture
- Does silence forbid something
- Or does it allow us to do our own will – our way?
- In Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:18 God said not to add to or take away from His word

Hebrews 7:11-14

- 11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?

Hebrews 7:11-14

- 12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also. 13 For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe **with reference to which Moses spoke nothing** concerning priests.

HOW TO PLEASE GOD

- **Our goal in life should be to please God**
- **I would urge you to take His word, study it and pray for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to understand and apply it in your life**
- **It is the whole of man to fear God and keep His commands because we will all be judged by Him**