

# Christian Living is About Pleasing God

## THE CASE OF JESUS

Becoming a believer leaves us with many decisions to make as we begin living our new life in Christ.

Jesus had a rule that we can all use. When he was baptized, the Father spoke:

**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.** Mark 1:11

Jesus was thirty years of age and had been pleasing his Heavenly Father for many years. He was sinless.

And doing what the Father wanted continued throughout his ministry on earth.

**By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.** John 5:30 NIV

Pleasing God was the guideline used by Jesus every day.

**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

## MAKING OUR DECISIONS

This same way of coming to decisions carries over to believers.

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.**

Romans 12:1 NIV

Our rule in living for Christ is not to identify the sin boundaries and stay away from them, but to please God. Sometimes we even have two good choices. Then our challenge is to consider which choice is the most pleasing to God.

Learning the will of God may mean we need to read in the Bible to find out what he likes.

**Walk as children of light . . . and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.** Ephesians 5:8-10.

We can't know intuitively what the Lord wants us to do. Sometimes we need to search in Scriptures, sometimes we need to heed those who have been informed by Scripture.

**. . . for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.**

Philippians 2:13

## GOD IS TESTING US

God is at work in our lives. He allows the sufferings, the heartaches and supplies solutions. All of this is for our growth. He wants us to learn to please Him.

**Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.**

—1 Thessalonians 4:1

The message from the apostles of Christ is not just how to stay out of sin, but how to live life—walk—and please God.

This winning rule began as we developed faith in Jesus.

**And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists**

and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6

### CAUSES ANSWERED PRAYER

Wanting to please God is foundational to having our prayers answered.

. . . and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. 1 John 3:22

Pleasing God does not do away with keeping his commandment, it means that pleasing him is our top choice and the commandments give us a way to know what pleases him the most.

There is a great freedom in picking conduct that is pleasing to the Lord, instead of attempting to determine the boundaries of sin. This option is available to every believer.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

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