

## Fully Pleasing Jesus Christ

Is your life pleasing to God? When we are trying to make a good impression on someone, we naturally **think** a great deal about what would please them, and then we **act** (often going to great lengths) to ensure they are pleased. One of the things Paul prayed for his brethren in Colossae is that they would, “Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him” (Col. 1:10). How we need to think more carefully about the specific things that please Jesus Christ! Notice four specifics that are mentioned in Paul’s prayer in Colossians 1:

***Those who please Jesus are fruit-bearers*** – The Colossian Christians were to please God by being, “Fruitful in every good work” (Col. 1:10). The word of God is described as a seed that brings forth fruit in good and honest hearts (Luke 8:11ff). Jesus said that His Father is glorified when disciples, “Bear much fruit” (John 15:8). Because of these truths, it is important to ask ourselves, “What kinds of fruit am I bearing right now?” The question might be phrased another way: “What good works am I doing because of my relationship with Jesus Christ and due to the influence of His word?” Those who do not bear fruit displease Jesus and are in danger of God’s judgment (John 15:1-2; Luke 13:6-9).

***Those who please Jesus are growing in knowledge of God*** – Christians are also to please the Lord by, “Increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:10). There is to be an ever-deepening relationship with God in the lives of Christians, and how wonderful it is to think that such a relationship is pleasing to Him (Phil. 3:10; 2 Pet. 3:18). The process of knowing God better demands that we seek to hear and apply His will to every situation of life (Jas. 1:22), realizing that He is working in us to accomplish what He desires (Phil. 2:11-12). Those who grow in their knowledge of God are constantly asking themselves, “What is God’s will for me in this situation?”

***Those who please Jesus display great endurance and patience*** – Paul wanted his brethren to be, “Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy” (Col. 1:11). Suffering either makes people bitter or it makes them better. Those who fully please Jesus Christ cultivate virtues such as prayer that leads to peace (Phil. 4:6-7) and contentment of heart (Phil. 4:11-13) because they realize that suffering can perfect and mature them to God’s glory (Jas. 1:2-4; Rom. 5:1-4). God promises to give us grace that will see us through every trial (2 Cor. 12:7-10; 1 Cor. 10:13). How we need to trust Him by displaying godly endurance and patience in times of difficulty and suffering.

***Those who please Jesus give thanks to the Father with joy*** – Paul said that those who fully please the Lord are people who joyfully, “Give thanks to the Father” (Col. 1:12). The concept of thanksgiving shows up in some very interesting places in Scripture. Christians are commanded to refrain from unclean, immoral speech and instead give thanks (Eph. 5:3-4). Giving thanks in everything is said to be God’s will for

the Christian (1 Thess. 5:18). One evidence of moral depravity in a society is an increasing absence of heart-felt thanksgiving toward God (Rom. 1:21). The joyful giving of thanks is closely related to the peace of God which is to rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15; Phil. 4:6-7). Those who fully please Jesus Christ are those who realize the necessity and value of giving thanks with joy.

Are you pleasing Jesus Christ with your life?

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