

# Proper Piety

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Isaiah 58

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**Snap shot:** Fasting moves us from a personal Kingdom focus to a Kingdom of God focus

I. False piety seeks one's own kingdom (58:1-4)

II. Proper piety seeks God's will (58:5-12)

III. Proper piety develops delight in God's Kingdom (58:13, 14)

## Definitions

**piety** | pi·e·ty | noun - dutifulness in religion; a strong belief in a religion that is shown in the way someone lives.

**sanctification** | ,saNG(k)təfə'kāSH(ə)n | noun - the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.

**REMEMBER:** It is easier to discuss these questions in the group if you have thought through them before attending the group.

## Checking in

How are you growing closer to the Lord?

What is not helping you grow closer to the Lord?

How are you helping others grow closer to the Lord?

## Connecting

*What experiences, good or bad, have you had with fasting?*

## Studying

### **Point 1: False piety seeks one's own kingdom (58:1-4)**

*READ: Isaiah 58:1-4*

*REFLECT:* How does the text expose Israel's false piety? What are some examples of false piety today? Why does the Lord have Isaiah call out this sin?

*PRAY:* Spend some time in prayer that the Lord would expose any false piety in your life.

*RESPOND:* What would it look like in your life to check your pious actions regularly?

### **Point 2: Proper piety seeks God's will (58:5-12)**

*READ: Isaiah 58:5-12*

*REFLECT:* What do you learn about fasting from this passage? In what ways do you see proper piety leading to the Lord's reversal of the curse in this passage? What does this passage teach us about the blessing of fasting?

*PRAY:* Using these verses, spend some time praying that our church would start seeking God's deliverance from sin and seeking His will to love others and love Him.

*RESPOND:* What would it look like for you to fast this next week? In what ways could you trade personal satisfaction with seeking to minister to others and to the Lord?

**Point 3:**

*READ: Isaiah 58:13, 14*

*REFLECT:* What does the text reveal as the cause for not delighting in the Lord? What are some examples we see today that lead people away from delighting in the Lord and the Lord's day?

*PRAY:* Spend some time praying that you would delight in the Lord's day and honor it instead of your own purposes; pray your delight in the Lord would grow.

*RESPOND:* What would it look like for you to develop your delight in the Lord's day? Tell of how observing the Sabbath has increased your delight in the Lord.

**Memorizing**

*"Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord?" – Isaiah 58:5*

**Preparing for next week**

**Read:** Malachi

**Ask:** questions of the text

**Pray:** through text, for the Dan Collver as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.