

Let's Please God

We Have a Choice

I. Pleasing God is a Concept in "Every Book in the Bible"

A. Begins with Respect/Reverence for God

B. The Tyranny of "I Deserve"

Luke 10:25–28 (NIV®)

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷ He answered: " **'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'**; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

C. For Example

Hebrews 11:1–4 (NIV®)

¹ Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. ⁴ By faith **Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did**. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

Genesis 4:2–7 (NIV®)

² Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. ⁶ Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

II. We Have a Choice -- A Framework for Evaluating Options



A. Difficult vs Easy

Luke 9:23–24 (NIV®)

²³ Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

B. What I Want vs What is Needed

2 Corinthians 6:4–10 (NIV®)

⁴ Rather, as **servants of God we commend ourselves in every way:** in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; ⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

C. Disciplined vs Undisciplined

Proverbs 9:1, 13 (NIV®)

¹ **Wisdom has built her house;** she has hewn out its seven pillars. . . . ¹³ **The woman Folly is loud; she is undisciplined** and without knowledge.

D. Diligent vs Lazy

Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV®)

²³ Whatever you do, **work at it with all your heart,** as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

E. Selfish/Carnal vs Godly/Spiritual

Romans 8:7–8 (NIV®)

⁷ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. ⁸ **Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.**

Romans 8:12–14 (NIV®)

¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit **you put to death the misdeeds of the body,** you will live, ¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.



F. I Determine Right & Wrong vs Accepting God's Values
Hebrews 12:9 (NIV®)

Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. **How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!**

G. Syncretism vs Faithfulness
1 Kings 11:7–9 (NIV®)

⁷ On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. ⁸ He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. ⁹ The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.

2 Timothy 4:9–10 (NIV®)

⁹ Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

Proclamation

I have decided to follow Jesus.

I will take up my cross daily.

I will run with perseverance the race marked out for me.

I intend to run in such a way as to get the prize.

I will throw off every hindrance and any sin which might entangle.

I choose to say no to ungodliness and yes to obedience.

I offer myself as a living sacrifice for the purposes of Almighty God, amen.