



Let's Please God

Character Counts

I. Pleasing God

A. Pleasing God is a concept in "every book in the Bible."

2 Kings 22:11–13 (NIV®)

¹¹ When the king (Josiah) heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. ¹² He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: ¹³ "Go and inquire of the Lord for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the Lord's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."

B. Let's Pray

C. Let's Please God

II. Foundations

A. Announcement from Heaven

Luke 2:13–14 (NASB®)

¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And **on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.**"

B. Jesus came to reveal the Father . . . help us to know His character better.

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NIV®)

¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

² but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

John 6:38 (NIV®)

For I have come down from heaven **not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.**

C. To please God consistently, understanding His character becomes important.

The Book of Daniel

Daniel 1:8 (NIV®)

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Daniel 3:12 (NIV®)

“But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”

Daniel 6:10–11 (NIV®)

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

Daniel 10:19 (NIV®)

“Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.”

A Parable of Jesus

Matthew 25:14–30 (NIV®)

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’



²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’ ²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ “Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Three Principles Re: God’s Attitude Toward Money

- 1) God has entrusted various gifts to each of us.
- 2) God gives us the freedom to develop those gifts.
- 3) Each of us will give an accounting before God.