

GOD'S PLEASURE

October 30, 2016 | Wonderful Mercy Church

HEBREWS 11:5-6 PASSION

Faith lifted Enoch from this life and he was taken up into heaven! He never had to experience death; he just disappeared from this world because God promoted him. For before he was translated to the heavenly realm his life had become a pleasure to God.
⁶And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we come to God in faith knowing that he is real and that he rewards the faith of those who truly seek him.

THE PLEASURE OF GOD

- v. 6: “without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God”
- God experiences pleasure, specifically as he relates to us
- God takes pleasure in us
- v. 5: Enoch’s “life had become a pleasure to God.”

GOD'S PLEASURE: DOES IT DEPEND ON US?

- **1 Chronicles 29:17a** NIV

“I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.”

- **Colossians 1:10** NIV

“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God”

GOD'S PLEASURE: DOES IT DEPEND ON US?

- **1 Timothy 2:2b-3** NIV

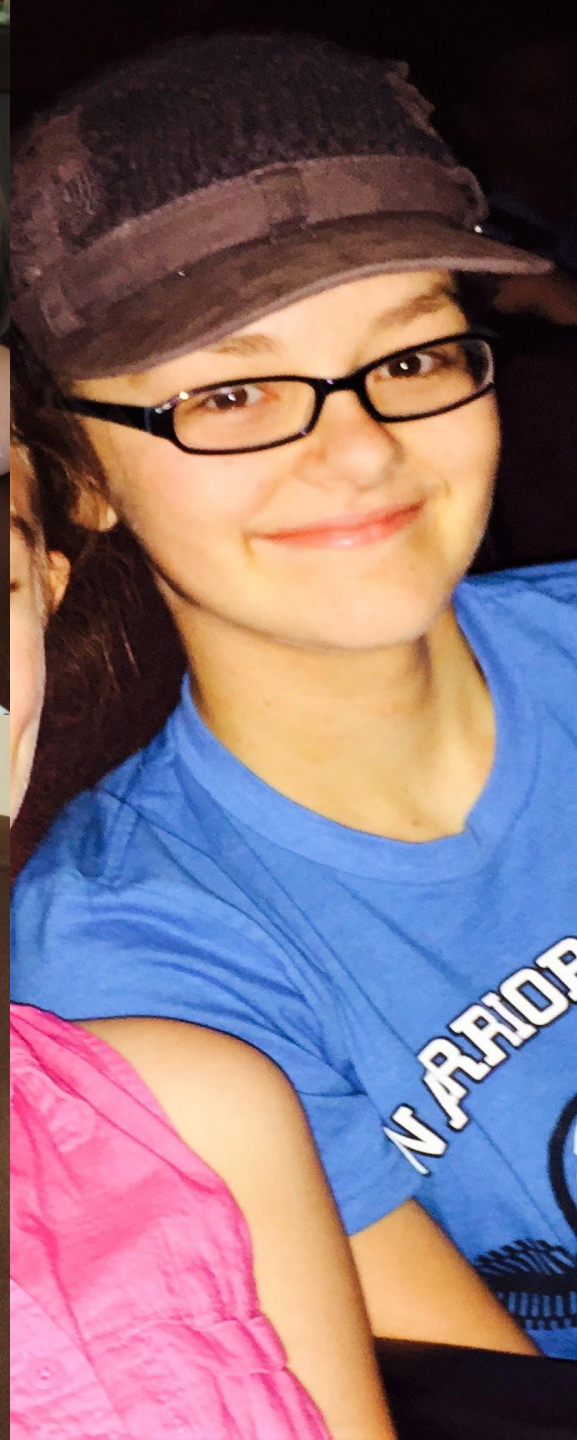
"...live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior."

- **Hebrews 13:16** NIV

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

GOD'S PLEASURE: DOES IT DEPEND ON US?

- Kindness, compassion, mercy, love: these are wonderful to see and I take pleasure when my kids walk in them
- But I take pleasure in my children for who they are and because they're mine, not because of anything they achieve



THE PLEASURE OF GOD

- **Luke 11:13** Voice

“Look, all of you are flawed in so many ways, yet in spite of all your faults, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to all who ask!”

GOD AS FATHER

- “God the Father is not called Father because he copies earthly fathers. He is not some pumped-up version of your dad. To transfer the failings of earthly fathers to him is, quite simply, a misstep. Instead, things are the other way around: it is that all human fathers are supposed to reflect him—only where some do that well, others do a better job of reflecting the devil.” [Reeves, Michael. *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*, InterVarsity Press, p. 25]

THE PLEASURE OF GOD

- The Father's imprint that we're to reflect:
"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17 NIV)
- I can never really love a God who is essentially just The Rule Maker and who approves of and takes pleasure in me if I am The Rule Keeper

WHAT IS YOUR PICTURE OF GOD?

- You will imitate the kind of God you picture
- If his pleasure is not an essential part of his being, but an option God activates for people he favors, then not only will we strive to earn his pleasure, it's what we'll require of others
- "If you're not passionate about God it's because you have a picture of God that's not worth being passionate about." [Greg Boyd, ARC Gathering 2014]

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF A BEAUTIFUL GOD

- **Galatians 2:16** MESSAGE

“We know very well that we are not set right with God by rule-keeping but only through personal faith in Jesus Christ. How do we know? We tried it—and we had the best system of rules the world has ever seen! Convinced that no human being can please God by self-improvement, we believed in Jesus as the Messiah so that we might be set right before God by trusting in the Messiah, not by trying to be good.”

A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF A BEAUTIFUL GOD

- **Zephaniah 3:17** NIV

“The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”

- **Ephesians 1:5** NLT

“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”

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