

Pleasing God According to His Terms

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-17

1. Everyone wants to believe they are pleasing God.
2. However, throughout scripture, God repeatedly shows that He, not man, sets the standards for what pleases Him.
3. Our task is not to negotiate, redefine, or modify His expectations, but to humbly submit to them.

God Has Always Set the Terms of Relationship

1. Adam and Eve
Genesis 2:15-17
 - A. God defined obedience; they did not get to choose what was pleasing.
 - B. Their attempt to decide for themselves led to separation.
2. Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:3-7
 - A. Abel offered by faith; Cain offered according to his own will.
 - B. God accepted one and rejected the other – showing that intent alone is not enough.

3. Israel at Sinai Exodus, chapters 19-20

A. God initiated the covenant, set the laws, and defined holiness.

- The application:

1) God is not pleased simply because we are sincere.

2) God is pleased when we yield to His revealed word.

God's Terms for Pleasing Him Today

1. Faith on His terms (**Hebrews 11:6**)

A. Faith is trust demonstrated in obedience

2. Worship on His terms (**John 4:23-24**)

A. True worship must be in spirit and in truth

3. Salvation on His terms (**Acts 2:37-38**)

A. God determines the conditions ----- we submit!

4. Daily living on His terms (**Romans 12:1-2**)

A. Living sacrifice means submitting to His will.

- The application:

1) Pleasing God requires humility and submission

Why We Struggle to Accept God's Terms

1. Human pride

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

A. Man naturally want to be in control

2. Desire for convenience

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

A. The cross represents sacrifice, not comfort

3. Cultural pressures

A. Culture shifts, but God's standards remain constant.

- **The application:**
 - 1) We must identify and repent of areas where we resist God because of comfort or preference.

How to Align Our Lives with God's Terms

1. Know God's word
Psalm 119:105
2. Develop a submissive heart
James 1:21-25
3. Seek God's purpose
Matthew 6:33
4. Walk by the Spirit
Galatians 5:16-25
 - The application:
 - A. Identify one area where you follow your own terms and replace it with God's way.

Conclusion

1. True joy and salvation come from submitting to God's terms!

Place

Date

[illegible]

Pleasing God According to His Terms