

Donna Davis - Trying to please God in everything I do!

When you love someone you really want to please them, so why is pleasing God any different? Or is it?

There are only 2 verses in the New Testament that contain the words 'please God.' One as an instruction, really emphasising and showing how important pleasing God is and the other telling us what it is that stops/prevents us from pleasing God.

1 Thess 4v1 ¶ Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to **please God**, so ye would abound more and more.

To beseech means to ask (someone) urgently and fervently for something, exhort is to strongly encourage or urge (someone) to do something.

The other verses is Rom 8v8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot **please God**.

The flesh is what causes all the problems! My flesh is what causes all my problems. Gal 5v17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

I know the closer I am to the Lord; the more I'm talking to Him throughout the day, and the more I read His word, the better it will be all round. The deeper, stronger, more mature I will become and this can only improve who I am in and for the Lord. This will then not only help/benefit me but all those I come into contact with. My whole life; my actions, attitudes, conduct etc. effects other people too. We each have a responsibility for the way we are and need to understand that our lives touch so many others, perhaps more than we realise at times. I can get frustrated with myself that I so easily write these words and yet so often don't do what I write. It really is a spiritual battle.

Col 3v17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Whether the situation I find myself in is easy to cope with and is in my comfort zone, or whether a decision I make will cause a problem or turn out to be awkward in some way to myself or someone else. It is saying/doing right that matters, for the Lord, and at the same time giving thanks to God. Thanking the Lord for everything; the ability to speak, to walk, for life itself. Therefore to say and do the right thing with the wrong attitude, motive or intentions, is not really good enough, it's displeasing to the Lord and it's missing the mark!

So even when I don't feel like it, when someone has upset me or I'm on a 'guilt trip' because I've upset someone or let the Lord down, when I'm busy, frustrated, disappointed or tired, when it would be easier not to; trying to please God must be paramount in my life. Pleasing the Lord above everyone else.

It is the Lord who should come first. It is being obedient to the Lord and striving to please Him that really matters. He is the one I will stand before and give an account of my life to and also, He is the one who gave His life to save me from Hell. He is the one who endured the pain and suffering for me; who took my sin upon Himself, who became my substitute. Surely after all the Lord has done for me, trying to please Him in everything I do should be a pleasure, a delight, a constant target to try and hit, a goal to achieve. As this verse says...

Col 3v23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Doing something heartily implies to me; putting effort in, really meaning it, with expression from deep within or with gusto! Being half-hearted in the Christian walk is like being lukewarm. This is not the way forward. Time is running out and I know I am going to meet the Lord 'soon' so whatever changes I want to make, need to happen now, today. Again, easy to write, not so easy to 'perform.' Even while writing this article I have felt convicted and been challenged.

Men only see the outside, the flesh, which is decaying and breaking down daily. 2 Cor 4v16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. It's easy to make out everything is good 'on the outside' for others to see, but the Lord sees through all of 'that.' He sees and knows the very heart of me. Nothing is hid from Him.

Despite all our efforts physically to keep young, to keep in shape, to not grow old, we will never prevent this from happening! Sadly the majority are often more concerned about appearance and reputation in the world's eyes than pleasing the Lord and having a right relationship with Him. We can only trust the Lord 100%. When you do, say, give, pray, go out of your way for someone, all those things only the Lord knows about and sees, do all for Him, with all your heart. Don't worry about what men say, or don't say, don't expect anything... just please God. Make it your aim! Ps 9v1 ¶ I will praise *thee*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works.

I know that I should be trying to please God in everything I do, but am I? Do I? No! I am so often challenged about myself and my character. I am so often dis-appointed about myself and my character. Rom 7v18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. v19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

As Keith Green wrote/sang such amazing words, which I can relate to, and which sums up how I feel. He writes with such honesty... The very things I hate, I end up doing, The things I want to do, I just don't do, Lord it seems so sad, why am I so bad? When in my heart I only want to be like you. The very ones I love I end up hurting, The ones I want to help I pass right by. Now I want to be, finally set free, The grace you've shown, the love I've known, Please let it shine through me. I want to love them, the way you do, I want to serve them, by serving you.

Lord how I know your tender heart must be broken, By all those unkept promises I've made. The question still prevails, please take away the veil, About how you forgive and still you live inside me when I fail, I want to love them all, the way you do, I want to serve them by serving you. I want to be like you, Jesus I do.

So, whatever time of the day or night, in secret or in a crowd, openly or inwardly, with family, friends or work colleagues, when talking, eating, shopping, playing a game/sport, when driving, when communicating with others, when I feel sad or happy, when things are going well and the sun is shining or it's a cold, dark, wintery night, when life seems chaotic and work is piling up, when I'm going through a difficult situation, when I'm faced with a family trial, when I feel close to the Lord or far away, etc. I must seek to please God with a thankful heart and a right attitude.

Ps 51v10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Col 1v10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;