

Let's Please God

We Have a Choice

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **June 09, 2024**



Our assignment is to please God. If we turn our attention, hearts, and efforts to doing what pleases Him each day, then God is the One who will bring victory. The outcomes are not dependent on our strength, wisdom, or anything else we can bring to the table other than our determination to please the Lord. Pleasing God should be our life goal, and that assignment requires making consistent decisions that honor Him. We need to recognize that our ability to choose is a gift from God. Our response—the choices we make and the life we choose to lead—reflects the value we attach to God's gift of salvation. Our choices make a difference!

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 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."*

***Describe a time when you felt "stuck" in a situation and God intervened on your behalf. How did that experience grow your faith?**

- C. For Example

Hebrews 11:1–4 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 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."*

***Recall a life decision you made to please God that, in retrospect, was a wise one. How did it make you more attuned to spiritual things?**

II. WE HAVE A CHOICE -- A FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATING OPTIONS

- A. Difficult vs Easy

Luke 9:23–24 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.*

***Share a time when you did something very difficult out of obedience, and that choice to be obedient led to much more.**

- B. What I Want vs What is Needed

2 Corinthians 6:4–10 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.

***How would you encourage others to draw their attention away from *what they want* and instead focus on *what is needed* around them?**

C. Disciplined vs Undisciplined

Proverbs 9:1, ¹³ **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 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 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®)

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³For 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, ¹⁴because 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 *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 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 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.*

***Give some examples in our culture today of where people have compromised their faith and moved away from pleasing God. What are the outcomes of making right choices and submitting to God?**

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.