

THE PRIORITY OF PLEASING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Introduction

When we study the life of Christ, we are struck by the priority that He gave to doing the Father's will - **Mt. 26:39**.

Clearly, Jesus pleased His Father - **Mt. 3:17**.

But this was no accident — He determined to please His Father. In every decision, this was His choice.

If a choice is to be made, there are only three possibilities — let's look at the priority that should be given to these.

PLEASING OURSELVES

It is not inherently wrong to do something that is pleasing to us — we will hardly know how to “love your neighbor as yourself” (**Mt. 19:19**) if we do not know how to love ourselves. Cf. **Mt. 7:12**.

But obviously, there are higher priorities in life than merely doing what is easy or pleasing to ourselves.

PLEASING OTHER PEOPLE

Pleasing others should be a higher goal than pleasing ourselves - **Rom. 15:2,3**.

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (**Phil. 2:3,4**).

PLEASING GOD

In every decision, our *highest question* must always be: “What would please my Heavenly Father?” Cf. **2 Tim. 2:3,4**.

And even in choosing between good, better, and best, we should be asking what would please Him the *most*.

It is important to recognize that God can be pleased - **Hb. 11:5**. Cf. **Hb. 13:16**.

“Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God” (**1 Thess. 4:1**).

“And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (**1 Jn. 3:22**).

But it is equally important to understand that we may do so only by faith - **Hb. 11:6**.

Conclusion

If our aim is to imitate Christ (**1 Jn. 2:6**), our “mission” in life must closely correspond to His - **Jn. 6:38**.

We please God only by the strength which He supplies (**Phil. 2:13**; **1 Pt. 4:11**), but we must make pleasing Him our *aim*, our *deliberate intention* in all that we do - **2 Cor. 5:9**. Cf. **Phil. 1:20**.

In our many moments of choice, may we make the same choice that Joseph (**Gen. 39:9**) and Moses (**Hb. 11:25**) made.

