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Can We Please God?

Have you ever heard someone say that we cannot please God? Or, that we are already fully pleasing to Him no matter what we do? Often this is said in response that God does not desire us to be obedient to all of His instructions any longer, as if obedience does not please Him.

Is God so harsh that there is nothing that we can do to please Him? Or, is He so apathetic about our behavior and in living out His word that He simply does not care if we do what He says or not. Is not breaking God's law sin? (1 John 3:4) Does God not care if we sin? Does it not please God if we choose not to sin? Is not obedience the same as not sinning? If we are already fully pleasing, then why does He command us to obey His commandments if we love Him?

In the spirit of testing everything, let's see what the Scriptures say.

Proverbs 16:7

When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD (YHWH), He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Ecclesiastes 7:26

And I discovered more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her.

2 Corinthians 5:9

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

Ephesians 5:10

Trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Let's look at this verse in context.

Ephesians 5:7-10

Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light; (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and

righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Clearly God wants us to obey Him and walk in His light; His Torah. And that will please Him. We know that his light is his law. Proverbs 6:23 clearly reveals that. We know that Jesus, His Hebrew name Yeshua, is the light because he is the Word made flesh as described in John 1:14. Yeshua came to teach the Word of God, and we already know that the law of God is light. So then we understand why Yeshua called himself the light of the world. Let's continue.

Philippians 4:18

But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, and acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Let's also look at this verse in context.

Philippians 4:14-18

Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account. But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Here the apostle Paul is speaking to the Philippians. He is basically commending them for the help that they gave him for his needs. Paul states that their help is a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, and well-pleasing to God.

Colossians 3:20

Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Hebrews 13:15-16

Through Him, then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus (Yeshua) from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua), to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 John 3:22

and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

We see from the following verses that even Jesus (Yeshua) sought to please God.

Matthew 11:26

Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

Luke 10:21

At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, “I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight...

John 8:29

And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.

Reading the Scriptures, we have seen several ways we can please God:

- 1) Walking in light (which is His law or Torah). Ephesians 5:10
- 2) Helping others. Philippians 4:18, Hebrews 13:16
- 3) Honoring parents (which is part of His Commandments). Colossians 3:20
- 4) Sacrifices of praise to God. Hebrews 13:15
- 5) Doing His will (which we know that His will is following Torah). Hebrews 13:21
- 6) Likewise keep ALL of His Commandments. 1 John 3:22

Since Jesus (Yeshua) always did what was pleasing to God, and He is to be our example (1 Peter 2:21), then should we always strive to please God? Absolutely! The reality is, is that we should always want to please God. And that it is simply rather silly to think that it does not please God to do what He instructed us to do. Whether we want to admit it or not, God cares what we do and in knowing that, depending on where our heart is, should we not care as well?

We hope that this teaching has blessed you, and remember, continue to test, everything. Shalom.

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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