

## That Which Is Displeasing To God

### Introduction

A. The Christian is continually exhorted in the Bible to live so that he may please God.

Furthermore thou we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk (live) and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. I Thess. 4:1

B. Such verses in the Scripture remind the believer of the importance of having a clear goal for the daily life. That goal must be the glory of God, i.e., living so that what we do is pleasing to God.

C. So that this subject may be crystal clear to us, God in His mercy, has stated in His Word a number of those things which are displeasing to Him. These are presented as warnings to us. We must carefully choose to avoid such actions.

I. Complaining is displeasing to God, Numbers 11:1.

And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord, and the Lord heard it, and His anger was kindled and the fire of the Lord burnt among them and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

Observation: This is one verse out of many which remind us of the grumbling attitude of the people of God on the way to Canaan. Their complaining had to do with the food, their leaders, the way God cared for them and the contrast of their present life with that in Egypt. Nothing would satisfy them. They were under the constant care of God with divine provision in all areas of life -- and yet they complained. This attitude of selfishness and doubt is a serious barrier to a successful Christian life.

II. Immorality is displeasing to God, I Samuel 11:27.

And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her (Bathsheba) to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

Observation: When King David saw the beauty of Bathsheba he became immoral with her. To cover his sin he caused the death of her husband Uriah. In such actions David broke at least two of the Ten Commandments. This was displeasing to God. Sensuality and immorality in every form is abhorrent to God. The believer may not live such a life.

III. Sinful self-confidence and pride are displeasing to God, I Chron. 21:7.

And God was displeased with this thing; therefore He smote Israel.

Observation: This is God's evaluation of David's plan to number the people of Israel. It would seem that this activity indicated an attitude of self-confidence and pride in David and Israel. By this they were saying, "See how many we are" or "Look what we could do!" When we trust ourselves or our money or ability instead of trusting God - it is displeasing to Him.

IV. All deliberate sinning is displeasing to God, Proverbs 6:16-19.

These six things doth the Lord hate, yea, seven are an abomination unto Him, A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift to running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that, soweth discord among brethren.

Observation: This passage should remind us that. God is not only against sinful action; but also against the attitude of deliberate sinning. Our nature is so calloused and we so fail to believe God's Word - that we often find ourselves choosing to sin! This is seen most clearly in sins of omission (failure to love, trust, worship, pray, etc.).

V. Hypocritical religious activity is displeasing to God., Isaiah 1:11-14.

To what, purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? saith the Lord. . . I delight not in the blood of bullocks. . . Bring no more vain oblations, incense is an abomination unto Me , . . your new moons and your appointed, feasts My soul hateth . . . .

Observation: In the days of Isaiah the people were very religious but in a hypocritical manner. As this chapter continues they are commanded to repent, stop their sinning, and to do that which would please God. No amount of money, sacrifice, service or words can make up for the devotion of the heart and obedience in daily life.

VI. Hindering children and people from coming to God is displeasing to Him, Mark 10:13-15.

And they brought, young children to Him, that He should touch them and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever Shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

Observation: Why did the disciples try to keep the children from the Lord Jesus? Was it because they were noisy or may say something inept? Whatever it was it gave the impression that the Lord Jesus was not interested in persons. His rebuke emphasizes His concern for everyone.

VII. Doubt and unbelief Is displeasing to God, Hebrews 10:38; 11:6.

Now the just shall live by faith, but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him . . . But without faith it is impossible to please Him . . . .

Observation: The second most important, virtue is that of faith. It is very important that we believe God's Word and trust Him. He is worthy of all our confidence. Our doubt and unbelief indicates that we do not believe He is faithful nor do we believe His Word is true. All believers have a tendency to "draw back" from situations in which we would have to trust God. This tendency must be rejected.

VIII. Justifying a non-Biblical sensuality is displeasing to God, Revelation 2:6.

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.

Observation: The Nicolaitanes, according to early historians, were those who found a religious way to excuse sensual self-indulgence. All forms of selfishness and immorality are displeasing to God.

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