

PLEASING GOD
Romans 8:8-9

Introduction

- A. The Christian life is about learning what pleases God [Ephesians 5:8-10].
- B. What pleases God is not what we can do but our faith, [trust/dependence] in Him [Psalm 147:10-11, Hebrews 11:6] as we allow the Holy Spirit to fill [direct, empower] us [Romans 8:8-9].
1. Review: How do I live in the Spirit? [Ephesians 5:18]
 - a. The verb translated, “be filled” is an imperative/command meaning every Christian is to be filled with the Spirit. It is in the present tense meaning it is to be a daily experience.
 - b. Illustrations of being filled: a sail filled with wind [empowerment/enablement, guidance/direction] and a room filled with a fragrance [characterized by, as in the fruit of the Spirit].
 - c. How does a Christian become “filled” or “live in accordance with the Spirit,” or have their “mind controlled by the Spirit?”
 - 1) Not through completing a long list of requirements, having an experience, or demonstrating a particular spiritual gift, but by repenting of known sin and yielding our self to the Spirit.
 - 2) Although this usually takes place in some form of initial dedication it is an on-going experience.
 2. Summary: The Spirit is both the means to a vibrant spiritual life and the result of a vibrant spiritual life.

C. What pleases God is:

1. That which deals with sin [Genesis 8:1; see also Exodus 29:18, 29:25, 41; Leviticus]
 - a. Not the sacrifice itself, but the heart attitude it expresses [Psalm 51:16-17]
 - b. As seen in our life as a living sacrifice [Romans 12:1]
2. A heart filled with praise (heart song) [Psalm 69:30-31]
3. A heart expressed in dependent prayer [Proverbs 15:8]
4. A heart expressed in holy thoughts and speech [Psalm 19:14, 104:23; Proverbs 15:26; 1 Thessalonians 2:4]
5. A heart of integrity [Proverbs 20:23]
6. Holiness in the home
 - a. Young children [Colossians 3:20]
 - b. Older children [1 Timothy 5:4]
 - c. Singles [1 Corinthians 7:32]
7. A heart of generosity [Philippians 4:18, Hebrews 13:16]
8. A heart that serves God and the church for righteousness, unity, and peace [Romans 14:15-19]

Conclusion

Make it your goal [2 Cor. 5:9]
to please God [Eph. 5:10]
by doing His will [Heb. 13:20-21, 1 Jn. 3:22]
in every way [Col. 1:10],
more and more [1 Thess. 4:1],
in all godliness and holiness [1 Tim. 2:1-3].