

# **“HOW YOU CAN PLEASE GOD!”**

**TEXT:** Romans 14:23

**THESIS:** To teach the truth that only those things we do while trusting the Lord pleases Him.

**INTRO:** A. I need you to listen on purpose for the first 15 minutes this morning and then I will be responsible to hold your attention for the last 2 1/2 hours. (smile)

B. There are many lists of sins in the Bible. But if we were to list every specific sin listed we would find they all have one characteristic in common, i.e., they are acts or attitudes which are done apart from depending on God!

**ILLUS:** The first sin in the universe was Satan no longer depending upon God and wanting to usurp God's place on His throne. The first sin on earth was Adam and Eve no longer depending upon God to care for their needs and reaching out for something forbidden.

Satan didn't try to disprove God to Adam and Eve. He just wanted them to act independently. He said it was O.K. to be God-conscious, but not to be God-dependent. It was all right to be god like, but not to be God-dependent. It was all right to worship God, give to God, etc. but not to be God-dependent. Satan knows what please God and what displeases God. God is pleased when we trust Him, depend upon Him and have faith in Him and He is displeased when we are independent of Him.

**TRANS:** Perhaps the greatest sin we can commit is to declare our independence of God...

## **I. WHY WE WERE CREATED?**

*Rev. 4:11*

*Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

### **A. All Things Were Created For God's Pleasure.**

1. All of creation, as it came from God's hand did please Him.
2. After each stage of creation the Bible says "...and God saw that it was good."
3. After God created man and His creation was completed the Bible says "...and God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold it was very good."

**ILLUS:** At this stage everything was totally dependent upon God and God was pleased. How do we know that? Because the Bible tells us what pleases God.

*Heb. 11:6*

*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

### **B. We Are All Created For His Pleasure:**

1. Why were you and I created (according to Rev. 4:11)? For God's Pleasure!
2. What does the Bible say pleases God (according to Heb. 11:6)? Faith!
3. What is another word for faith? Dependence!

**ILLUS:** Why were we created? TO PLEASE GOD. What pleases God? FAITH. What is another word for faith? DEPENDENCE.

According to our original text, (Rom.14:23) what displeases God? Doing anything without faith or without depending on God. What does God call it when we operate or do anything with out faith or when we act independently of God? SIN!

*Rom. 14:23*

*And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

**ILLUS:** Suppose I preach with out depending upon God; what is it? SIN! Suppose you listen with out depending upon God; what is it? SIN!

Why were we created? TO PLEASE GOD! What pleases God? FAITH! What is another word for faith? DEPENDENCE! What does God call it when we don't depend on Him for whatever we do? SIN!

## **II. HOW CAN WE PLEASE GOD?**

### **A. We Please God By Trusting Him and Depending Upon Him:**

1. God didn't say great eloquence pleases Him, or talent pleases Him, or good looks pleases Him, or intelligence pleases Him, He simply said FAITH pleases Him!
2. What is another word for faith? DEPENDENCE!

### **B. What Pleases Us May Not Please God:**

1. But we were created for His pleasure!
2. Many things please me, but only one thing pleases God - FAITH!

**ILLUS:** What pleases me? Dove bars, Dark Chocolate, Breyer's Ice Cream, Lemon Meringue Pie, Cherry Pie, Raisin Pie, Apple Pie, Steak, Pierogies, Strawberries, Fishing, Flowers, Books, Money, etc. Many things please me, but only one thing pleases God - FAITH! He is pleased when we DEPEND UPON HIM! If we don't depend upon God what does He call it? SIN!

The preacher who doesn't depend upon Him is sinning. The singer who doesn't depend upon God is sinning. The usher who doesn't depend upon God is sinning. The deacon, bus worker, the Sun. School Teacher, the Secretary, the Choir, the Bus Mechanic...WHO DOESN'T DEPEND UPON GOD IS SINNING!

3. I don't know what the greatest sin is in the Bible, but not depending upon God is sin!
4. It is sin like adultery is sin, like drugs are sin, like prostitution is sin, etc.

**ILLUS:** Someone says they heard that so and so went into "deep sin". What is "shallow sin"? Suppose someone came to you and said: "He went into deep sin." You ask "What did he do?" They say: "He drove to work with out depending upon God." OR "She did her dishes with out depending upon God."

5. Because depending upon God pleases Him, all of us can please Him.

**ILLUS:** If the Bible said preaching a great message pleases Him, most of us could never please Him. Or if it said that singing beautifully pleases Him, most of us could never please Him. But we can all depend upon Him! We can depend upon Him to help us drive to work or to do the dishes, or to sing or play an instrument or preach a message or to do whatever God wants us to do! We can depend upon Him at home, at work, at church...anywhere! And that what...? PLEASES HIM!

## **III. WHAT IS OUR GREATEST DANGER?**

### **A. The Failure To Please Him.**

1. How Do We Fail To Please Him? By not depending upon Him.

## 2. Where Is That Failure Most Likely?

- a. We usually please Him the least in the area where we are most gifted, have the most talent, are most gifted or have the greatest ability.
- b. It is easier in these areas to trust in ourselves than to trust in Him.

**ILLUS:** Remember your first solo? Sunday School Lesson? You probably stayed up all night praying and asking for God's help. But now you are experienced, gifted, your talent has been honed, you no longer need God to help you perform. **YOU NO LONGER DEPEND ON HIM, SO YOU NO LONGER PLEASE HIM and WHEN YOU DON'T DEPEND ON HIM GOD CALLS IT SIN!**

Probably the most sins committed across the country are committed on Sunday Mornings in churches like this one. Ushers greet and seat people with out depending on God. Bus Wrkrs. go out to pick up boys and girls and don't depend upon God. S.S. Teachers teach lessons with out depending upon God. Choirs sing with out depending upon God. Deacons deacon with out depending upon God. The preacher preaches with out depending upon God. People come and fail to depend upon God. We give and fail to depend upon God . May God forgive us! We are too self-dependent and independent when **WE NEED TO BE GOD DEPENDENT!**

**CONCL:** Many things are beyond our reach, but depending upon God and thus pleasing God is within the reach of everyone: rich and poor, hearing and deaf, sighted and blind, educated and non educated, adult and child. Why not confess your lack of dependence upon Him as sin and start to consciously depend upon Him for every thing, every day?