

Created for God's Glory #3

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.”

Review: The highest purpose in our lives should be to fulfill God's purpose, thereby bringing him glory. God has a purpose for Christians in general, but he also has a unique purpose for each one of us. But if we do not know God's ultimate purpose for us, how can we fulfill it? All we are responsible for is to live each day in full consecration to God, obeying him, and seeking to do what he has for us in that immediate future. If we do this, then eventually we will see that God has so worked it that his purpose for us as individuals will have been fulfilled.

Prov. 16:9 – “A man's heart deviseth his way, but the LORD directeth his steps.”

According to the Westminster Shorter Catechism, the chief end of man is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever. How can we glorify God, but to be willing and thankful vessels of his mercy and grace?

Even though the word “pleasure” in Rev. 4:11 might better be translated “will” (“according to thy will”), we could still profitably ask ourselves if it is possible to please God, and if so, how?

How can we please God, and bring him glory?

1. In the Heart and Mind

- Fear God.

Ps. 147:10-11 – “He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. **The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.**”

- Humility and a broken or contrite heart

Ps. 51:17-19 – “**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.** ... Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness...” He does not delight in thoughtless ritual. He is really looking at the condition of the heart.

Isa. 57:15 – God dwells “in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit”. That is who he chooses to manifest himself to, and open the eyes of understanding.

Mic. 6:6-8 – “... what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.” Those are the things that please him.

- Faith

Heb. 11:5-6 – Enoch “had this testimony, that **he pleased God**. 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.”

Roman centurion – Mt. 8:5-13 (“he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” He was obviously pleased.

Bleeding woman – Mt. 9:20-22 (“Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.”)

Syro-Phoenician woman – Mk. 7:24-30 (“For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.”) It is obvious that he was pleased with her humility and persistence, and faith.

- Yield to God and his working in your life. Die to self daily.

Phl. 2:13 – “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

2. In Actions

- Living and walking “in the Spirit”

Rom. 8:8, 14 – “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ... For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” As God's sons, being led by his Spirit, we can please him.

- With our mouths, praising God and speaking what is true
Rom. 15:6 – “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Ps. 19:14 – “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” Not just acceptable, but pleasing.
- By being clean in body and in spirit
1 Cor. 6:18-20 – “Flee fornication. ... ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
- By doing good works
Mt. 5:16 – “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
Heb. 13:15-16 – “... let us offer to the sacrifice of praise to God continually ... But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
- By bearing fruit
Jn. 15:5, 8 – “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ... Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”
Mt. 25:14-30 (parable of the talents) The implication of the parable is that God is also pleased when we as his servants use what he has entrusted us responsibly and profitably, for the furtherance of his kingdom. To such he says “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”
- By obeying God and keeping his commandments.
1 Jn. 3:22 – “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”
Isa. 56:4-5 – “For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.”

3. In Attitude

- By serving him with joy, not like it is some burden
Dt. 28:47 The curses of this chapter are not just for disobedience and idolatry, but also attitude.
“Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things.”
- Singing and thanksgiving
Ps. 69:30-31 – “I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.”

4. In Doctrine

- To be true to his Word and the gospel.
1 Thess. 2:4 – “But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.”

1 Thess. 4:1 – “... exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how you ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.”