

THE NUMBER TWO PRIORITY IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

1 John 3:22; Colossians 3:1-17

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: There are a lot of things a Christian must focus doing and not doing and there are priorities, and obviously the first priority is to be obedient to the Lord Jesus. The thing that is second only to obedience is to live one's life to please the Lord. Life has a lot of demands and the world has a lot of things to offer everyone and the Christian still has his/her "old sin nature" which he/she was born with that has a very strong pull. There is a battle, a struggle within the Christian as to how he/she lives his/her life, like everybody else, like the old sinful/human nature wants or follow the new nature given upon his/her spiritual birth and live to please the Lord God. It is a struggle and so many Christians fail to live their lives for the Lord.

1. Pleasing the Lord should be every Christians' greatest ambition.
- *2 Corinthians 5:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1*
2. Every Christian should seek to excel in pleasing the Lord, not to be accepted, but out of love and what would be at awaiting him/her in heaven.
- *Hebrews 13:21*
3. Being able to please the Lord really happens because of His work in one's life.
- *Ephesians 5:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1*
4. To live pleasing the Lord comes from discovering and practicing what pleases Him through learning His will in the Word of God and then doing it.
- *1 Thessalonians 2:4; Galatians 1:10*
5. Wanting to please the Lord starts in the inner heart of a person.
- *Colossians 1:9-10; 3:22-24*
6. Even in family life, marriage, and rearing one's family, one should seek to please the Lord first of all.
- *1 Thessalonians 2:15*
7. Failing to please the Lord results in one failing to meet the needs of others.
- *Romans 8:8; 14:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 5*
8. Those who are not believers in Jesus Christ as well as believers but are worldly in their living are incapable of pleasing God. Spirit filled believers are the only ones who have the capacity to please the Lord.
- *1 Corinthians 3:3-4; 10:33*
9. Pleasing God is learning to live for others and not for one's own self.
- *Galatians 5:17*
10. The old sinful nature, the fleshly nature is a constant threat and enemy to pleasing the Lord and helping others because of its selfishness but the filling of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to please the Lord.
- *Colossians 1:9-10; Romans 14:17-18*

11. Pleasing God involves every area of a person's life with no restrictions or private compartments.
- *Colossians 3:22-24*
12. Pleasing God includes where one works.
- Every believer has the responsibility to honor the Lord Jesus wherever he/she is, including his/her place of work.
13. Thinking about one's rewards in heaven for obedience and a life lived pleasing the Lord should motivate the believer into living his/her life to please the Lord Jesus.
- *2 Timothy 2:4; Luke 19:13; 1 Corinthians 7:25-35; 2 Corinthians 5:9*
14. One should guard against becoming entangled in things which would distract or hinder one's capacity to please the Lord in all of his/her life.
- *Philippians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 26*

CONCLUSION:

1. Belief in the Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to His call/invitation is a person's first and most important priority and then the second most important thing/priority is to live one's life pleasing to the Lord.
2. Living a life pleasing to the Lord is not an easy thing to do for there are many distractions.
 - One's own inborn sinful nature (curse from Adam)
 - The pull of the world.
 - Satan's devious ways.
 - One's family.
 - One's job.
 - Many other distractions.
3. Living a life pleasing to the Lord has immediate benefits as well as future benefits.
4. Living a life pleasing to the Lord causes others to be blessed.
5. Living a life pleasing to the Lord is not automatic, it has to be empowered by one's determination and the Holy Spirit.
6. Christian, how are you living your life? Is it pleasing to the Lord?