

## PLEASED OR DISPLEASED?

### Philippians 4:4

**Introduction:** There was a time when kids loved to play a game called "pleased or displeased." It was usually played at somebody's house where there had been a party and lots of kids were present. The kids would sit in a circle and the person who was "it" would ask someone in the circle, "are you pleased or displeased?" Of course nobody was ever "pleased," so then the person was asked "what will it take to please you?" Well, this was the fun part because the person asked the question could respond whatever he/she wanted and it always had to be "fulfilled" by whomever he/she named to do the "whatever." "Stand on one leg," or some silly thing, or what everyone liked better was "for so and so to walk around the house with so and so..." Thus the game went on until everybody seemed to be "walking around the house" in the dark. We are never asked that question anymore but just about every body seems to be "displeased" about something and Christians are not exempt. Sometimes we give the impression that life is to be endured and not enjoyed. While in prison, Paul gave three words of advice to us Christians.

### I. PAUL'S THREE WORDS OF ADVICE TO CHRISTIANS

1. **"Rejoice!"** The Christian is to be continually in an attitude of positiveness, of praise, of gratitude, thanksgiving and that of being pleased.
2. **"Rejoice in the Lord..."** The Christian is to be positive and in an attitude of rejoicing even when bad things come as well as when the good things happen.
  - No matter the circumstances, the heart should always remain positive and uplifted.
3. **"Rejoice in the Lord always!"** The Christian is to never stop rejoicing, not ever letting up, not ever allowing any circumstance to cause rejoicing to cease, to be pleased all the time.

### II. THERE ARE OBSTACLES TO BEING PLEASED ALL THE TIME AND REJOICING

1. There are "secret" sins. Those wrongs that only God and the individual knows about will create a barrier and prevent one from being pleased and given to rejoicing.
2. There is the constant questioning and doubting of God.
  - **"...without faith it is impossible to please God..."** Is there anyone who has not wondered (doubted) at one time or other about something involving God?
  - Remember when your children questioned you about everything? Their "why's?" worried you to death. We do that sometimes with God, too.
3. There is the attitude of presumption or perhaps the lack of gratitude.
  - We forget that God is not obligated to explain this or that to us as we are not obligated to explain to our children why this or why that.
  - How often do we go to God in prayer and NEVER ask Him for anything, but just THANK Him for all He has done?
  - We take God for granted and therefore we lose the sense of being thankful.

4. There is the neglect of spiritual discipline. Not studying the Bible, little prayer, skip worship and fellowship with other Christians, etc.
5. There are the unresolved broken relationships. Things that happened long ago with those who were once friends but still have not been resolved, unsettled, forgiveness still not given.

### **III. THE CHRISTIAN IS TOLD TO BE PLEASED, REJOICE EVERYDAY**

1. When problems of life come. *"...count it all joy when you fall into divers of temptations.."*
  - When hard times come, we are to rejoice in the middle of all the troubles.
  - It's not easy to rejoice when told you have to have surgery yet God says we can rejoice.
2. When good things happen to others. *"...rejoice with them that rejoice and weep with them that weep."*
  - Someone's uncle dies and we weep with that person.
  - Someone's rich uncle dies and leaves a million dollars to him/her. Would you weep or rejoice with that person?
3. In the preaching of the Gospel. Yes, even preachers and teachers of the Word of God can learn from one another.
  - Anytime the Word of God is opened, everyone can benefit and everyone should be pleased and rejoice.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. When we can be pleased and rejoice every day, thus making our attitude and mental outlook better which affects our outlook, disposition and relationship with others.
2. When we are pleased and rejoice every day, we are a blessing to others. Who wants to be around a constant whiner or complainer? Who likes to be around a bubbly, happy person? Why?
3. When we are pleased and rejoice every day, it pleases God. God blesses us most when we are obedient, grateful and in a happy, rejoicing attitude.
4. **ONLY** a non-Christian has the legitimate excuse to be unhappy, discouraged, sour, cranky and hard to live with attitude.
  - The Christian does not have any reason to not be pleased and thus rejoicing every day.
  - The non-Christian can be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye upon his/her belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. Christian! Let's begin to live as we should have been living ever since becoming a Christian..
  - Be happy, be pleased, rejoicing every day.