

God Enjoys His Relationship with His Children

INTRODUCTION:

Job 22:1-7 (ESV) ¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said: ²“**Can a man be profitable to God?** Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. ³**Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or** is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless? ⁴Is it for your fear of him that he reproveth you and enters into judgment with you? ⁵Is not your evil abundant? There is no end to your iniquities. ⁶For you have exacted pledges of your brothers for nothing and stripped the naked of their clothing. ⁷You have given no water to the weary to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry.

Psalms 147:11 -- The Lord **takes pleasure in those who fear Him**, in those who hope in His mercy.

Psalms 149:4 -- For the Lord **takes pleasure in His people**; He will beautify the humble with salvation.

Zephaniah 3:17 -- For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. **He will take delight in you with gladness.** With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

1 Chronicles 29:17 -- I know also, my God, that You test the heart and **have pleasure in uprightness.** As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.

I. In Giving Us All Good Things.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 (ESV) ²⁴There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Numbers 6:22-27 (ESV) ²²The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²³“Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ²⁴The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. ²⁷“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Psalms 37:4 (ESV) ⁴Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 35:27 (NKJV) ²⁷Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, “Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.”

II. When We Let Him Change Us to Be Like His Son

Philippians 2:13 (ESV) ¹³for it is God who works in you, **both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

Romans 8:29 (ESV) ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV) ¹Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

1 John 2:6 (ESV) ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV) ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

III. Seeing Our Faithful, Obedient Hearts

2 Corinthians 5:9 (ESV) ⁹So whether we are at home or away, **we make it our aim to please him.**

Ephesians 5:10 (ESV) ¹⁰and try to **discern what is pleasing to the Lord.**

Colossians 1:10 (ESV) ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, **fully pleasing to him**, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Sacrificing in order to serve.

Hebrews 13:15-16 -- Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Worshiping God in spirit and truth.

Isaiah 58:13-14 -- “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Malachi 1:10 -- “Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,” says the Lord of hosts, “nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

Caring about evangelism.

Philippians 4:18 (ESV) ¹⁸I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

Trusting in prayer.

1 John 3:22 -- And whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.**

Speaking and acting kindly.

Ephesians 4:30-32 (ESV) ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

IV. In Bringing Us to Glory

Ephesians 1:5 -- having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the good pleasure of His will,**

Isaiah 53:10 -- **Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;** He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the **pleasure** of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

Ezekiel 18:23 -- Do I have **any pleasure at all** that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

Luke 12:32 -- "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good **pleasure** to give you the kingdom.

CONCLUSION: God Wants Us to Thoroughly Enjoy Our Relationship with Him

Psalm 70:4 -- "May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, 'God is great!'"

Psalm 63:3 -- "Because your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise you."

Psalm 43:4 -- "Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy."

Psalm 37:4 -- "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."