

**Spiritual How-to's -
How to Please the Lord
Reviewing the Basics
Debbie Chaney**

Intro. We've talked a lot about ways to please the Lord, but today I want to go back to the basics. To review & establish the basics of pleasing the Lord. The starting point, if you will.

I. When you want to please someone, you:

A. Want to make them happy

1. Want their approval & affirmation
2. Do what they enjoy or desire

B. It flows from knowing them & getting to know what they're like

1. Then seeking something that they will like
2. Birthday's or other celebrations, are one time events
3. Marriage or a partnership is more long term
 - a. In that the "boundaries" of what a partner "accepts" is acknowledged & sought to live within

b. An example –

1. I've been married 36 years
2. My husband is allergic to avocados
 - a. I put nothing in his food w/ avocados
 - b. because his body won't tolerate them
3. He prefers the house doors always locked
4. He prefers a certain sized fork to eat with
5. He prefers sci fi movies
6. He enjoys eating in rather than out
7. I know him & seek to make him happy, but it doesn't always happen
 - a. Sometimes I leave the door unlocked & give him the wrong fork
 - b. I will sometimes sit & watch aliens invading earth, but not always
 - c. I love eating out, so sometimes we compromise or even order in
8. The key however is KNOWING HIM. Having spent time with him, I know him.

C. The same can be said of the Lord.

1. Jesus is a real person, who's alive & seeks a relationship with us
2. We can get to know Him & what He likes – what pleases Him

D. Just like a marriage – we learn what pleases the Lord

1 Jn. 3:22; Heb. 11:5; 11:6; Jn. 8:29

II. God has written on our hearts, or hardwired into our conscience that which bears witness to what pleases Him.

A. It alerts conflicting thoughts to what is pleasing to Him.

B. It accuses and excuses us

C. It judges our secrets according to the gospel of God Rom. 2:15-16

D. The problem is – when we refuse to acknowledge God & His ways – that conscience becomes calloused, thereby doing & allowing things that ought not to be done Rom. 1:28

1. We give approval to evil, rather than God

2. Therefore, God is not pleased with us. 1 Cor. 10:5

III. We have a whole Bible filled with things that please Him & displease Him

A. It was all written as an example for us, so we can learn & not desire evil like they did. 1 Cor. 10:6

B. The key to pleasing God (or anyone) is walking close to them, in close relationship

1. If that's the goal, if love is the motivation, there's little consequence if I leave the door unlocked or slip with some behavior

2. Forgiveness and or grace is always ample if I am walking in faith & love!

C. My desire to walk closely in relationship with the Lord compels me to want to make Him happy.

1. I enjoy it

2. It makes me happy too

IV. So as we remember the basics about pleasing the Lord

A. It is all about **relationship**

B. It all about **knowing Him**

C. He knows us and is the only one who can fully please us

D. We grow in our love & knowledge of Him and in doing so, our desire to please Him increases exponentially