

Lesson 2: God's Pleasure in His Eternal Son

Primary Objectives:

1. Highlight the Main Points from Lesson 1
2. Explore Personality Trait Preferences as They Relate to God
3. Identify Major Aspects of God's Foremost Delight in His Son
4. Build a Bridge to / Bring into Focus Implications of God's Delight in His Son

1. Highlight the Main Emphasis from Lesson 1

What we covered:

2. Explore Personality Trait Preferences as They Relate to God.

2.1. Identify the top 5 attractive personality traits in the list below. Then choose 1 of those five that tops the list and write it in the blank.

Approachable	Cheerful	Compassionate	Confident
Determined	Fair Minded	Friendly	Good Humored
Good Listener	Happy	Honest	Humble
Independent	Intelligent	Kind	Openminded
Optimistic	Passionate	Pure	Responsible
Self-aware	Sensitive	Spiritual	Trustworthy

Most Attractive Personality Trait: _____

2.2. Now consider the list from the most attractive personality traits *about God*? Would your selections change or stay the same? Why or why not?

2.3. Restate in your own words what Paul summarize as the content of the good news in the verse below.

1 Timothy 1:11: in accordance with *the gospel of the glory of the blessed God* with which I have been entrusted.

Summary: The good news is about..._____

2.4. What do the following verses anticipate believers will share in and what does that indicate about God’s personality?

Matthew 25:23: His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

John 15:11: These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 17:13: But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

These verses indicate that God is..._____

3. Identify Major Aspects of God’s Foremost Delight in His Son.

3.1. Discuss in small groups the question: Why do things we enjoy fail to sustain our undiminished pleasure in them over time?

3.2. Compare the following two passages from Matthew. How are the portraits of Jesus different, and what do they tell us God takes delight in regarding his Son?

Matthew 12:18–21	Matthew 17:1–6
<p>¹⁵ Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶ and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah:</p> <p>¹⁸ “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.</p> <p>¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;</p> <p>²⁰ a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory;</p> <p>²¹ and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”</p>	<p>¹ And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him...⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.</p>

Jonathan Edwards Sermon: The Excellency of Christ, on Revelation 5:5-6

There do meet in the person of Christ such really diverse excellencies, which otherwise would have been thought utterly incompatible in the same subject; such as are conjoined in no other person whatever, either divine, human, or angelical; and such as neither men nor angels would ever have imagined could have met together in the same person, had it not been seen in the person of Christ.

3.3. Identify several things in the following passages that characterize God’s relationship to and delight in the Son:

John 1:18: No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

John 3:34–35: For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

John 5:20: For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

John 10:17: For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

John 17:5: And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

John 17:24: Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

4. Build a Bridge to / Bring into Focus Implications of God’s Delight in His Son

4.1. Reflect on what the following statements indicate God takes supreme pleasure in regarding “his beloved Son” (Col 1:13).

Colossians 1:19: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Colossians 2:9: For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.

John Piper: *The Bible teaches that this eternal God has always had
a perfect image of himself (Colossians 1:15),
a perfect radiance of his essence (Hebrews 1:3),
a perfect stamp or imprint of his nature (Hebrews 1:3),
a perfect form or expression of his glory (Philippians 2:6).*

“We may conclude that the pleasure of God in his Son is _____.”

4.2. Examine the following scenarios and assess if and why you agree with the differing sentences.

Scenario 1: A man is speeding on a city street, loses control and hits a parked car. He is sentenced to a fine of \$1,000 for reckless driving.

Scenario 2: A man is speeding on a city street, loses control and hits a security guard that results in his death. He is sentenced to several years in prison for vehicular manslaughter.

Given the supreme value that God places on his Son what would be an appropriate response by God toward those who treat the Son of God with dishonor or scorn him?

See 2 Thes 1:5-9; Heb 10:29.

4.3. Study the logical argument Paul makes in Romans 8:31-32. How does God’s supreme regard for the infinite worth of his Son make the argument work?

Romans 8:31–32:

What then shall we say to these things? [Here is the implication:]

If God is for us, [then] who can be against us?

[For] He who did not spare his own Son

but [if he] gave him up for us all,

[then] how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

How do you think Paul expected people to respond to these words? How do they provide fuel to your sharing in God’s white-hot enjoyment of the Son?

4.4. Choose one of the following “next steps” to focus on this coming week:

- What particular aspects of who the Son of God is from this lesson would you like to understand better to foster greater joy in God?
- Can you identify a specific thing impeding your ability to experience real delight in the Son? What do you believe God is asking you to do about it?
- What concrete action can you commit to this week to keep the supreme worth of the Son in the forefront of your attention?

Next Week: God’s Pleasure in the Display of His Glory