

### Lesson 3: God's Pleasure in the Display of His Glory

#### Primary Objectives:

1. Identify the Problem & Apply the Power of God's Delight in His Son
2. Assess the Scope of God's Pleasure in What He Does
3. Demonstrate Why God's Pleasure in His Fame is Good News

#### 1. Identify the Problem & Apply the Power of God's Delight in His Son

##### 1.1. 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.

**"We may conclude that the pleasure of God in his Son is pleasure in himself."**

##### 1.2. Identify the Problem. 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 infinite 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 1:5-8; Heb 10:29.

##### 1.3. Apply the Power: 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 does this provide fuel to your sharing in God's full-on enjoyment of the Son?

## 2. Assess the Scope of God's Pleasure in What He Does.

### 2.1. Consider the implication of God's unimpeded power.

If you were free to do whatever you wanted with unlimited resources, what would you do?

What do the following verses say God does with his sovereign power?

**Psalm 115:1–3:** Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

<sup>2</sup> Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

<sup>3</sup> Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

**Psalm 135:6:** Whatever the Lord pleases, he does,  
in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

**Isaiah 46:9–10:** Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose [pleasure]'

Implication: God always acts in sovereign freedom to do \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2.2. Sketch in specifics of what God delights to do.

Discuss the specific examples from the verses below that illustrate God doing what he pleases. (vs 6). **Summarize** your observations. Is there anything that surprises you or seems out of place for God to take pleasure in?

#### **Psalm 135:5–12**

<sup>5</sup> For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.

<sup>6</sup> **Whatever the Lord pleases, he does**, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

<sup>7</sup> He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

<sup>8</sup> He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, both of man and of beast;

<sup>9</sup> who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants;

<sup>10</sup> who struck down many nations and killed mighty kings,

<sup>11</sup> Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan,

<sup>12</sup> and gave their land as a heritage, a heritage to his people Israel.

Summary:

### 2.3. Grapple with whether God ever does anything he doesn't want to.

Does God ever do anything he doesn't want or like to do? Can you think of any biblical examples?

How should we respond to apparent contradictions such as the following verses:

**Ezekiel 18:23, 32:** Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?...<sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."

**Deuteronomy 28:63:** And as the Lord took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the Lord will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you.

John Piper: God is grieved in one sense by the death of the wicked, and pleased in another....The death and misery of the unrepentant is in and of itself no delight to God....What God delights in is the exaltation of truth and righteousness, and the vindication of his own honor and glory.

### 3. Demonstrate Why God's Pleasure in His Fame is Good News

#### 3.1. Examine what God is doing with his "name" in the following passage.

What does this suggest God takes pleasure in?

**Isaiah 63:12–14:**

<sup>12</sup> who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses,

who divided the waters before them to make for himself **an everlasting name**,

<sup>13</sup> who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble.

<sup>14</sup> Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest.

So you led your people, to make for yourself **a glorious name**.

**3.2. List all the things in the verses below that God does out of concern for his name, fame, and glory.**

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

**Isaiah 43:21:** the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

**2 Sam 7:23:** And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things.

**1 Samuel 12:22:** For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.

**Psalms 106:7–8:** They did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. <sup>8</sup> Yet he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make known his mighty power.

**Isaiah 48:9–11:** For my name's sake I defer my anger;...<sup>10</sup> Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. <sup>11</sup> ...for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

**Psalms 23:3:** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Exodus 9:16:** But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.

**Isaiah 66:19:** And from them I will send survivors to the nations,...to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.

**3.3. Consider the following scenario. What would you do?**

A fiery ball comes out of the sky and lands right on your property. You go out to inquire and discover a spectacular, perfectly faceted diamond-like crystal levitating just off the ground, from which brilliant light and warmth radiate. This unsurpassed treasure is yours to keep.

What will you do with it?

**3.4. How would you help a friend see that God's pleasure in the display of his glory is good news for people like us?**

**Next Week: God's Pleasure in All of His Creation**