

Name

Date

Audience

February 17, 2020



**ACTION:**

Pray for a filling of spiritual wisdom so that you can be a God-pleaser.

## From People-Pleasing to God-Pleasing (Colossians 1:9-14)

### OPENING AND PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Problem:

I am a people-pleaser and it's not making me or anyone else happy.

It has these important manifestations:

- People-pleasing is sinful and sin-producing
- People-pleasing requires constant mind-reading
- People-pleasing is debilitating and draining
- People-pleasing makes us bitter and angry

Allusion to the Solution:

The Colossians were just like us. They were people-pleasers and it was making them miserable. The Apostle Paul sets out a better way to live in Colossians 1:9-14, that is, a God-pleasing life.

### TRANSITION

What is the first way to please God? It's through increased fruitfulness.

### FIRST INSIGHT

Increased fruitfulness pleases God (10)

Data:

- God is a Gardener
- God is pleased with visible good works

### TRANSITION

I love the idea of producing fruit that pleases God, but how do I know what pleases him? The second verb provides the answer. It's increasing in the knowledge of God.

### SECOND INSIGHT

Increased theology pleases God (10)

Data:

- Knowledge of God is important
- Knowledge of God is available to all

### TRANSITION

You're asking a lot of me. More fruit and more theology. How can I ever do that? The third verb gives us hope: it's about depending on God not ourselves.

### THIRD INSIGHT

Increased dependence pleases God (11)

Data:

- God enjoys empowering his people
- God's power produces joyful patience

### TRANSITION

That's amazing. God gives me his glorious power so that I can endure joyfully to the end. I owe God so much. How can I pay him back? He is pleased with increasing thanks for our salvation.

### FOURTH INSIGHT

Increased thanks pleases God (12-14)

Data:

- Thank God for qualification
- Thank God for deportation
- Thank God for redemption

### TRANSITION

Do you see how 'easy' it is to please God? Just thank him more. What a relief, to move from people-pleasing to God-pleasing.

### CLOSING/CALL TO ACTION

1. PROBLEM: People-pleasing is a sin that produces sin, it requires mind-reading, it is debilitating, and it is embittering. 2. INSIGHTS: God pleasing is based on (1) Increased fruitfulness; (2) Increased theology; (3) Increased dependence; (4) Increased gratitude. 3. ACTION: Pray for a filling of spiritual wisdom so that you can be a God-pleaser in these four ways.