

# What Delights God?

## Two Key Questions, part 1

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, August 29, 2021

*He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who reverence him.* Psalm 103:13 (LB)

*My heart is turned over within Me, All My compassions are kindled.* Hosea 11:8 (NASB)

(see also Genesis 1:3, 1:31; Matthew 3:17, Luke 15:10, 20)

*For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light<sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),<sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.* Ephesians 5:8–10 (ESV)

### MISCONCEPTION #1:

**God is delighted by \_\_\_\_\_  
to achieve moral and spiritual standards.**

*But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. ...<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ...<sup>27</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness.”* Matthew 23:13-14, 25-27 (ESV)

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest.<sup>29</sup>Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. ...<sup>30</sup>Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”* Matthew 11:28–30 (MSG)

*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.* 1 Peter 5:5b and James 4:6 (ESV)

*What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? <sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord ... <sup>17</sup> I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.*

*Psalm 116:12–17 (ESV)*

## **MISCONCEPTION #2:**

**God is delighted by \_\_\_\_\_  
vast amounts of Biblical knowledge.**

*You do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. <sup>39</sup>You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, <sup>40</sup>yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. *John 5:38–40 (ESV)**

*This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. *1 Corinthians 8:1b (ESV)*  
(see also 1 Corinthians 13:2)*

## **MISCONCEPTION #3:**

**God is delighted by \_\_\_\_\_  
public displays.**

*I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. *Amos 5:21 (ESV)**

*I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. <sup>14</sup>Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup>When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen. *Isaiah 1:13–15 (ESV)**

*With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. *Micah 6:6–8 (ESV)**

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