

**LIVING A LIFE PLEASING TO THE LORD
REVELATION 4:11**

Introduction

In many ways the relationship between **earthly fathers and their children mirrors the relationship between the Heavenly Father and mankind.**

Our text says that **everything that the Lord created, He created for His own pleasure (His “will” or “purpose”).** This is especially true of mankind because mankind was originally **created in the very image of God!**

(Think of it, children are very much in the image or likeness of their parents—some of that is because of genetics and some of that is because of parental influence and discipline.)

The desire for parents to some degree is for their children to bring them pleasure and follow their purpose and will—e.g. grandchildren, character. However, we know that some children bring pleasure and some don't. (e.g. The black sheep of the family)

So then, here is the question: If we are God's creation (and we are) and those of us who are saved are His re-creation (and we are)...**How much pleasure do we bring to the Lord?** How much of His will and purpose for us are we accomplishing?

There are four different kinds of lives that a person can choose to live:

1. The Common Life.

- a. Born a sinner just like everyone else. Choosing to just “*go with the flow*” by living the way the vast majority of their peers live— You might call it just a normal life.
- b. Born a certain way, raised a certain way, then they die one day!
- c. But during their lifetime, they never came to believe the Gospel and know the Lord. In the eyes of the world they may or may not have had a life of personal and/or public accomplishments! But they leave everything they've accumulated and accomplished and they meet the LORD lost and are judged for their sin and cast into the Lake of Fire.

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- d. This kind of a life is called the **natural life** – it is not really a great life no matter how much is accomplished or accumulated!
 - 1) It **may be a life** lived to the best of one's abilities. (It could even be a moral life.)
 - 2) It **may be a life** lived by the “*seat of the pants.*”
 - 3) It **is a life** that has no certain hope.
 - 4) It **is the life** of the vast majority of the lost.
- e. It is the kind of life that most of the world is living!

The Common Life...

2. The Criminal Life.

- a. Living a life that goes against societal mores and the moral law of God.
- b. Living a life of things that are both self-destructive and destructive to others.
- c. Sometimes such people even have no conscience...that is, no sense of right or wrong and hence no remorse for the evil they do!

3. The Carnal Life.

A person who, one day, at a specific place and time:

- a. Has repented of their sinfulness – They knew they were lost and sinful.
- b. They asked God for forgiveness, and for the gift of eternal life, and they GOT IT – and they KNOW it.
- c. But they seem to keep going backwards not forward in their Christian life.

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- 1) They may keep trying to live like they are NOT different now that they are saved.
 - 2) They may try to HIDE their relationship with Jesus.
 - 3) They only pray when they are in trouble, or in desperate need.
- d. These are the “Christians” who never grow! Babies.
- e. They are known for:
1. Being angry and in-fighting.
 2. Most of the time they are disappointed and unsatisfied.
 3. They are almost always self-driven – in all their decisions.
 4. They struggle hard to “act” like they should, but with little success, and with very little joy!
- f. Yes, they are saved, but they find it almost impossible to live like it.
- g. I’m glad there is another kind of life we can live...

The Common Life...The Criminal Life...The Carnal Life.

3. The Christian life.

- a. This is a life that pleases God – end of story!
- b. These folks may have seem to have a lot of disappointments and trials, but through it all, they walk with their Lord, and God is not ashamed to be called their God!

Let me introduce you to some people that were able to please God at one time or another in their life.

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1. **Solomon – by dependant prayer. (1 Kings 3:3-10)**
When Solomon asked for wisdom, an understanding heart to judge the people of God. “*And the speech pleased the LORD*”
2. **Enoch – by consistent life of FAITH. (Hebrews 11:5,6)**
Walking with God! “*...he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*”
3. **Jesus. (Matthew 3:17; 17:5)**
 - a. By living the perfect life that we could never live.
 - b. By being just exactly what we as sinners needed.
Isaiah 53:10–“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.”

Let me demonstrate how important it is for our lives to please the Lord.

1. *Proverbs 16:7–“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*
Let’s look at Jacob and Esau. (*Genesis 27:41; 32:6,7; 32:28; 33:4*)
2. *2 Samuel 11:27–“But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.”*
Its important because otherwise, we get into trouble with God!
3. If we are not deciding to please the Lord in all things, then we end up only pleasing other people, our flesh, or our enemy.
 - a. **Other people** – now that may sound good, but it is a dead end street because it usually becomes manipulation and exploitation.
 - b. **Our flesh** – our own sinful pride.
 - c. **Our enemy** – the devil, who seeks us not to do evil, but not to do right.

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Let me give you some thoughts on how to live a life pleasing unto the Lord:

I. LIVE IT FEARFULLY! (*Psalm 112:1*)

Psalm 112:1 Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Fearing God – this is the first step – don't skip it!

Fearing God pleases God because we actually show some signs of intelligence when we fear messing with God's laws, and God's will – The book of Proverbs says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom!

David loved the Lord a lot, but he sinned a lot because there were times when he did not fear the Lord as he should.

But through the chastening hand of the LORD in his life, he learned to fear the Lord as he should, and the Psalms are rich in that truth!

And his life is still labeled GREAT!

II. LIVE IT OBEDIENTLY!

Obeying God. This follows along with fearing the Lord!

One of the most important things in life is to do things God's way.

1. He wrote the book on marriage – live it HIS way!
2. He wrote the book on child-training – do it HIS way (not the world's)!
3. He wrote the book on money management – do it HIS way!
4. He wrote the book on dealing with temptation – handle it HIS way!
5. He wrote the book on soul-winning – win souls HIS way!

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(patiently, lovingly, but urgently)

6. He wrote the book on courtship – find a mate GOD'S way!
7. He wrote the book on how to pray – do it HIS way!
8. God wrote THE BOOK about life – live it HIS WAY!

Today, a bunch of dissatisfied pagans are running around showing off some new way to pray, and worship, and live with each other – (Its wicked!).

None of this world's religions, or governments, or schools please Almighty God unless they are being obedient to GOD'S BOOK!

III. LIVE IT BY FAITH (*Hebrews 11:6; 12:1-2*)

Conclusion

What is a Life that Pleases God?

- A. One that is Lived Fearfully.
- B. One that is Lived Obediently.
- C. One that is Lived By Faith.