
Series: Learning How to Please God

Pleasing God With My Desires

Galatians 5:16-18 (NIV)

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

1. DESIRE BY ITSELF IS NOT NECESSARILY BAD.

- Examples from Scripture of good desires.

To desire a closer relationship to God

Psalm 42:1-2 (NIV)

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

To desire righteousness

Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

To desire the will of God.

Psalm 40:8 (NIV)

"I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

To desire day by day direction

Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.

To desire to finish well

Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

2. WHAT TURNS DESIRE INTO SIN?

- When desire gets in the way with our relationship with God.

v. 17a "For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature."

- When desire controls our behavior.

v. 17b "...They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want."

Identifying with Romans 7:14-24

3. WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO MY DELIMNA?

- The answer is Spirit-led living

v. 16 "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

v. 18 "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law."

What Does It Mean to Be Spirit-led?

Self is removed from the throne

Praying keeps me constantly connected to God

Imitating the attributes of the Spirit

Refilling happens on a regular basis

Intense desire to be obedient

Total commitment to God's Word

Living out the purposes of God

Every thought is held captive

Desires line up with God's