



## ENJOYING GOD'S WILL

ROMANS 12:1-2 \* JULY 23, 2023

### THE PROBLEM WITH FEAR-BASED RELIGION

- 1 Fear loses its \_\_\_\_\_ to motivate us over time; it is emotionally \_\_\_\_\_ and leads to indifference.
- 2 The response to the call of repentance is not of \_\_\_\_\_, but bitterness (because we fear God's \_\_\_\_\_).
- 3 Fear-based religion makes it difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ suffering or trials.

In the Gospel we find God's complete approval and \_\_\_\_\_ —it motivates us and \_\_\_\_\_ us to live in a way that pleases the Lord.

(ROMANS 8:1, 30; COLOSSIANS 3:3; GALATIANS 3:26-27; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, 21)

### MY PART OF THE PROCESS

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_: It starts with a \_\_\_\_\_.  
→ Is Jesus my \_\_\_\_\_ or my \_\_\_\_\_?  
→ I may need to \_\_\_\_\_ my stubborn heart and give God \_\_\_\_\_ to change my heart.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_: Input determines \_\_\_\_\_.

### THREE QUESTIONS

- 1 What do I watch/read? Is it keeping me \_\_\_\_\_ to this world or helping to \_\_\_\_\_ my mind?
- 2 Who do I \_\_\_\_\_ with? Who is \_\_\_\_\_ whom? (PSALM 1:1; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33)
- 3 Who am I seeking to \_\_\_\_\_? (1 THESSALONIANS 2:4)  
→ \_\_\_\_\_ what is harmful; \_\_\_\_\_ what is helpful.

### TWO HELPFUL TOOLS FOR ANALYSIS

- ✓ my \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ my \_\_\_\_\_ records

### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. When did you really have to sacrifice for something? What did you give up? What made you willing to invest so much of yourself to achieve that goal?
2. Read Romans 12:1-2. Describe in your own words what is involved in the commitment Paul urges in verse one. What right does God have to ask us for this kind of all-in commitment to Him?
3. Why do you think Paul uses the imagery of living sacrifices to describe our reasonable response to God's mercy? Why do you think this kind of service of worship is pleasing to God?
4. What can we do to resist the pressures of the world? What does it mean to stop conforming? What does it mean to let God change the way you think? How can this happen?
5. Read Ephesians 4:17-24. What is this passage about? What principle or phrase from this passage compares to the themes found in Romans 12:1-2?
6. We usually conform to the ways of the world because the payoff seems worth making. Unfortunately, it's often the last step in a series of bad choices. Thinking of a time you succumbed to a familiar temptation, can you identify the steps that led to your sin?
7. Do you ever obey God out of fear? What would change if you obeyed Him out of gratitude and a desire to please Him?