

Doctrine of Pleasure

1. While some women consider giving birth to a baby a burden and move to terminate their pregnancy through abortion, others, such as Sarah find the ordeal a pleasure.
 - *Genesis 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?*

2. The Jews looked after the poor in Israel by allowing them to eat of their vineyards until they were pleasantly filled and their hunger was satisfied.
 - *Deuteronomy 23:24 When thou comest into thy neighbour's vineyard, then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill at thine own pleasure; but thou shalt not put any in thy vessel.*

3. God finds pleasure in certain areas.
 - *God Finds Pleasure in Righteousness. 1 Chronicles 29:17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.*

 - *God Finds Pleasure in Gospel Obedience. Ezra 10:11 Now therefore make confession unto the Lord God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. Haggai 1:8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord.*

 - *God Finds Pleasure in Personal Prosperity. Psalms 35:27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.*

 - *God Finds Pleasure in those who Fear Him. Psalms 147:11 The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

 - *God Finds Pleasure in those who Hope in His Mercy. Psalms 147:11 The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

 - *God Finds Pleasure in His People. Psalms 149:4 For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*

 - *God Finds Pleasure in the Death of Christ. 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.*

- God Finds Pleasure in the act of Predestination. *Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:*
 - God Finds Pleasure in Sanctifying His Own. *Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*
4. Those who wish to please kings and other rulers try to satisfy their pleasure through acts of humility and self deprecation.
- *Ezra 5:17 Now therefore, If it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter.*
5. Kings and rulers will often satiate their personal pleasure at the expense of the general welfare of the people.
- *Nehemiah 9:37 And it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins: also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.*
6. When given an opportunity without coercion, some individuals will enjoy drinking until drunk.
- *Esther 1:8 And the drinking was according to the law; none did compel: for so the king had appointed to all the officers of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure...10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king, 11 To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.*
7. The pleasure of life can be diminished or terminated by sudden death or news of being terminally ill.
- *Job 21:21 For what pleasure hath he in his house after him, when the number of his months is cut off in the midst?*
8. Bitterness will cause pleasure to disappear.
- *Job 21:25 And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.*
9. To ask a question sometimes is to answer it.

- *Job 22:3 Is it any pleasure to the Almighty, that thou art righteous? or is it gain to him that thou makest thy ways perfect?*

10. As God takes pleasure in righteousness, He is equally displeased with wickedness.

- *Psalms 5:4 For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.*

11. Individuals are invited to join a righteous cause with joy and gladness.

- *Psalms 35:27 Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.*

12. Christians should actively engage in building up the kingdom of God with pleasure.

- *Psalms 51:18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*

13. It is not wrong to pray and ask the Lord to take pleasure in the works of our hands when they are done to honor and glorify Him.

- *Psalms 102:14 For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.*

14. It is easy to bless the Lord when activities that honor Him are being performed.

- *Psalms 103:21 Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.*

15. Joseph was entrusted with great power over others.

- *Psalms 105:22 To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.*

16. The Christian can and should find great pleasure in the works of the Lord.

- *Psalms 111:2 The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.*

17. God is not impressed with, and finds no pleasure in the strength of His creation, for He is sovereign over all of it.

- *Psalms 147:10 He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.*

18. An excessive love of personal pleasure will bring a person to poverty.

- *Proverbs 21:17 He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.*
- *Ecclesiastes 2:1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.*

19. God has no pleasure in foolish people.

- *Ecclesiastes 5:4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.*

20. Young people are to remember God in the days of their youth and before the luster of life has been lost.

- *Ecclesiastes 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;*

21. God knows how to turn nights of personal pleasure into fear.

- *Isaiah 21:4 My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me.*

22. Some rulers, in particular, are said to be created for the purpose of performing what pleases God.

- *Isaiah 44:28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.*

23. The purpose of God in creation was for His pleasure.

- *Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*
- *Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

24. Even in judgment the pleasure of God is in view.

- *Isaiah 48:14 All ye, assemble yourselves, and hear; which among them hath declared these things? The Lord hath loved him: he will do his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Chaldeans.*

25. The hypocrite will fast and find pleasure in religious activities but will not repent of sin nor turn from it.

- *Isaiah 58:3 Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? Wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.*

Special Note.

“Reigning hypocrisy often breaks out in daring impiety and an open contempt and reproach of God and religion for that which the hypocrisy itself must bear all the blame of. Sinners reflect upon religion as a hard and melancholy service, and on which there is nothing to be got by, when really it is owing to themselves that it seems so to them, because they are not sincere in it” (Matthew Henry).

26. God’s mercy is poured upon those who will refrain from doing their own pleasure and honor Him.

- *Isaiah 58:13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: 14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

27. Sometimes the lust of the flesh can make even a child of the covenant act like a wild animal in passion.

- *Jeremiah 2:23 How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? See thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done: thou art a swift dromedary traversing her ways; 24 A wild ass used to the wilderness, that snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? All they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her.*

28. When unbridled passions are unduly expressed God might choose to move to judge the evil that is done with public shame.

- *Ezekiel 16:37 Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness.*

29. God found no pleasure in Coniah and put a curse on him. The Curse of Coniah affected the lineage of the Messiah.

- *Jeremiah 22:28 Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? Is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? Wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?*

30. God found no pleasure in Moab for her many transgressions.

- *Jeremiah 48:38 There shall be lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein is no pleasure, saith the Lord.*

31. God finds no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

- *Ezekiel 18:23 Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord God: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?*
- *Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*

32. God lost pleasure in Israel.

- *Hosea 8:8 Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure.*
- *Malachi 1:10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.*

33. God finds no pleasure in insincere acts of worship.

- *Hebrews 10:6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.*
- *Hebrews 10:8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;*

34. God finds no pleasure in those who draw back from a life of faith.

- *Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

35. When God is pleased with individuals He loves to bestow gifts of divine grace.

- *Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

36. Sometimes a ruler will try to appease the many at the expense of an individual by succumbing to the collective pleasure.
- *Acts 24:27 But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.*
 - *Acts 25:9 But Festus, willing to do the Jews a pleasure, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?*
37. The heart can become so hardened in evil that it still finds pleasure in sin while knowing the judgment of God.
- *Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*
 - *2 Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
 - *1 Timothy 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*
 - *James 5:5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.*
 - *2 Peter 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;*
38. It is possible for a committed Christian to take pleasure in human weaknesses in order to magnify the grace and glory of God.
- *2 Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*
39. It is good to pray for others to become the object of God's redeeming grace and sanctification.
- *2 Thessalonians 1:11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:*
40. The pleasure of God is expressed with an ultimate goal in mind namely, that individuals might be partakers of His holiness.
- *Hebrews 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*