

Doctrine of Pleasure

1. For some women having children is considered to be a great pleasure of life.
 - *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 poor of Israel could eat with pleasure from the vineyard of a neighbor provided it was not to excess.
 - *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 takes pleasure in the heart that is upright.
 - *1 Chron. 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.*
4. Political rulers render decisions based on the good pleasure of their hearts.
 - *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. In times of spiritual revival God's people are exhorted to make a confession of their sins, discern the will of the Lord and do what pleases God.
 - *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.*
6. One form of divine judgment is enslavement so that others rule with pleasure over God's 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.*
7. Sometimes rulers provide an example of excessiveness by allowing the principle of personal pleasure to guide behavior even to the point of drunkenness and shame.
 - *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.*

8. The rich who die suddenly will find no pleasure in his house and wealth.
 - *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?*
9. When a person is ill in bitterness of soul food is not enjoyed.
 - *Job 21:25 And another dieth in the bitterness of his soul, and never eateth with pleasure.*
10. It is possible to have a false sense of security and that one's life of self righteousness brings pleasure to God.
 - *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?*
11. God takes no pleasure in any act or thought of wickedness.
 - *Psalms 5:4 For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.*
12. The principle of pleasure is associated with the righteous as well as the wicked. Those who practice doing wrong know only a fleeting moment of pleasure while the righteous can shout for joy time and again and be glad.
 - *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.*
13. Christians should pray that God would build His church because it pleases Him to do so.
 - *Psalms 51:18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*
14. The heart of the Christian should take pleasure in all that is associated with the church including art, architecture, music, and drama.
 - *Psalms 102:14 For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.*
15. Only those who please the Lord are properly entitled to worship and bless the Lord.
 - *Psalms 103:21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.*
16. God sovereignly chooses whom He will bind to rule and teach.
 - *Psalms 105:22 To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.*

17. The pleasure of serving God generates more pleasurable moments of service.

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

18. The Lord does not take pleasure in man for his outward appearance but for a heart that fears Him and hopes in His mercy.

- *Psalms 147:10 He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.*
- *Psalms 147:11 The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.*

19. With those He is pleased with and has pleasure in, God will reward with salvation.

- *Psalms 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.*

20. The love of pleasure leads to poverty of soul and resources.

- *Proverbs 21:17 He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.*

21. It is possible to embark on a frantic search for happiness to no avail.

- *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.*

22. God calls men fools who vow a vow that is not honored.

- *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.*

23. As the body wears down and passions subside, the time will come when what once gave great pleasure holds none.

- *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;*

24. God knows how to turn pleasure into fear. There is the fear of disease. There is the fear of discovery. There is the fear of eternal damnation. There is the fear of an early death.

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

25. The heart of the heathen as ruthless as it may be is still in the hand of the Lord to do His pleasure.
- *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.*
26. In His sovereignty God will do whatever pleases Him.
- *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:*
27. The Messiah suffered at the pleasure of the Father. This divine pleasure was not rooted in a sadistic feeling but in the accomplishments that would accrue on the other side of Calvary.
- *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.*
28. When a heart worships God in sincerity, pleasure will be found even in the harsher demands of the religious life.
- *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.*
29. A denial of self pleasure for spiritual worship brings divine blessings.
- *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.*
30. The stain of sin is not something that can easily be washed off. To deny that the soul has done evil is foolish. In sexual sins the heart becomes like a wild ass in heat that smells the wind to find anything to mate with and will not be denied.
- *Jeremiah 2:22 For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD. 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.*

31. It is possible to sin in such a matter that God puts a curse on the life and declares He has no pleasure in a soul. Coniah was such a man.
- *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?*
32. God knows how to shame those who engage in promiscuous behavior. One way is through public exposure of private parts.
- *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.*
33. God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked and in that truth lays the hope for a soul to repent of evil and seek righteousness.
- *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 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*
 - *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?*
34. A covenant nation can become a divine disgrace.
- *Hosea 8:8 Israel is swallowed up: now shall they be among the Gentiles as a vessel wherein is no pleasure.*
35. God does take pleasure in the building of structures that honor Him.
- *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.*
36. When God loses His pleasure in a covenant people He will not accept their worship.
- *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.*
37. There are many fears that Christians have. Jesus has come to take away fear from the heart and reassure individuals they shall be given a place in His kingdom.

- *Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*
38. In order to please the ungodly and give them pleasure secular ungodly rulers will hurt members of the church as Felix hurt Paul.
- *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?*
39. An evil heart can know the judgment of God, agree with His justice and still find pleasure in those who participate in evil with them.
- *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.*
40. Following his conversion, Paul said he actually delighted in suffering for Christ for when he was weak in the flesh he became stronger in the spirit.
- *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.*
41. The doctrine of election is based upon the pleasure of God and not upon the merit of those who are the heirs of salvation.
- *Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*
42. It pleases the Lord to make known unto men some facets of the mystery 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:*
43. The life of a Christian becomes more acceptable, as far as circumstances and duties are concerned, when it is realized that it is God working in the heart to do His will.
- *Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*
44. Christians should pray that God would make others worthy of the divine calling and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith in the heart with power.
- *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:*

45. When God moves to judge a soul He allows the heart to be a lie in order that they might be damned because they had pleasure in righteousness. One lie is the hopelessness of change.
- *2 Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
46. God warns women engaged in sexual sins they are dead while they live.
- *1 Timothy 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*
47. God has no pleasure with any attempt to establish righteousness based on good works.
- *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;*
48. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. God has no pleasure in any person who turns away from living the Christian life.
- *Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*
49. Divine discipline is different from human discipline for divine judgment comes for the profit of the soul.
- *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.*
50. When a person is not immediately judged for the evil that is done, a false sense of security is adopted. From a divine perspective God is simply allowing the soul to eat of sin, to nourish it for the day of ultimate judgment.
- *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.*
51. There is a reward for evil pleasure.
- *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;*

52. The only reason given in *Scripture* for creation is the pleasure of God.

- *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.*