



# Pleasing God as a Servant of Christ

Galatians 1:10





**For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.**





V. 10 is the first verse  
in a series in which  
Paul is defending his  
apostleship





## Galatians 1:10

- For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?

**Clearly Rhetorical**





# Look @ the Previous Verse





## Galatians 1:9 (NET)

- As we have said before, and now I say again, if any one is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, **let him be condemned to hell!**





Paul is NOT seeking the approval of God in a salvific way.

Paul has been saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8)



# Paul is saved YET He still wants His



- Preaching to please God
- Ministry to please God
- Life choices to please God
- Stewardship of the gospel to please God
- Work ethic to please God
- Personal holiness to please God

Ultimately Paul wants God to be pleased with Him. **Do I?**





## Galatians 1:10

- For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?





Is Paul teaching us  
not to care about  
the approval of  
man?





- Does the son seek the approval of his father?
- Does the paratrooper seek the approval of her squad leader?
- Does the soccer player seek the approval of his coach?
- Does the employee seek the approval of her employer?

If the answer is “no” then are they really seeking the approval of God.





# Turn To

## 1 Corinthians 10: 31 & 33





- <sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, **do all to the glory of God.**

- <sup>33</sup> just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.





**Well! which  
is it Paul?**





**#1 Strive to live a life  
pleasing to God.**

**#2 Whenever possible seek to  
please other humans as long  
as God is not displeased.**





## Galatians 1:10

- Or am I trying to please man?

No.





## Galatians 1:10

- If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.





# What must I do to please God?





Pleasing God begins  
with

Faith in God





# Hebrews 11:6

- And **without faith it is impossible to please him,** for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.





# Faith In:

- **God the Father**

- > who created you and called you

- **God the Son**

- > who died for your sins and rose again

- **God the Spirit**

- > who seals, indwells, fill and desires to lead you





# Pleasing God Requires

# Being in Christ





## Romans 8:8 (NET)

- Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is your life because of righteousness.





# Pleasing God Requires

## Saying What God Wants Said





# 1 Thessalonians 2:4

- but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, **so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.**





# Turn to

# Matthew 3:13-17





## Matthew 3:17

- and behold, a voice from heaven said,  
“This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well  
pleased.”





**Why is the Father  
taking  
“great delight”  
(NET) in His Son?**





*Teaching the* **TRUTH**

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH





## John 4:33-34

- So the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought him something to eat?”
- Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.





## John 6:38

- For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.





# Pleasing God Requires

That You Do the Will  
of Your Heavenly  
Father





**How big of deal is  
it that I do the will  
of the Father?**





## Matt 7:21

- “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**



**Those who get to enter the  
eternal kingdom of God  
personally believe the gospel  
of Jesus Christ and have a life  
characterized by striving to do  
the will of their heavenly  
Father.**







# Turn to

## 1 John 3:22ff





# 1 John 3:22–23

- and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and **do what pleases him.** <sup>23</sup> And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.





# If believing in the Son of God pleases God

How much more is  
God pleased when we  
are servants of Christ?





## John 15:20

- Remember the word that I said to you:

**‘A servant is not  
greater than his  
master.’**





# Is Christ your master?





# Look Back @

## Galatians 1:10





## Galatians 1:10

- If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.





Paul is a servant of  
Christ and NOT man  
because his desire is  
to please the one  
who enlisted him.





## 2 Timothy 2:4

- No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, **since his aim is to please** the one who enlisted him.





**How many things  
can we agree upon  
that please God?**





# #1

# Striving to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ





**We say that we  
believe Jesus is Lord,  
but what does that  
mean?**





According to Merriam-Webster:

**A lord is a ruler by right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due.**

**Who could be saved and not have that perspective about Christ?**





# #2

## Active participation in the body of Christ



- Will you participate in the Embracing Biblical Womanhood conference?



- Will you participate in the backyard BBQs?
- Will you be part of the men's conference in October?
- Will you be in worship and Bible study two Sundays in a row?





# #3

Working hard to  
provide for the  
members of one's  
household





## 2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NET)

- For even when we were with you, we used to give you this command: **“If anyone is not willing to work, neither should he eat.”**



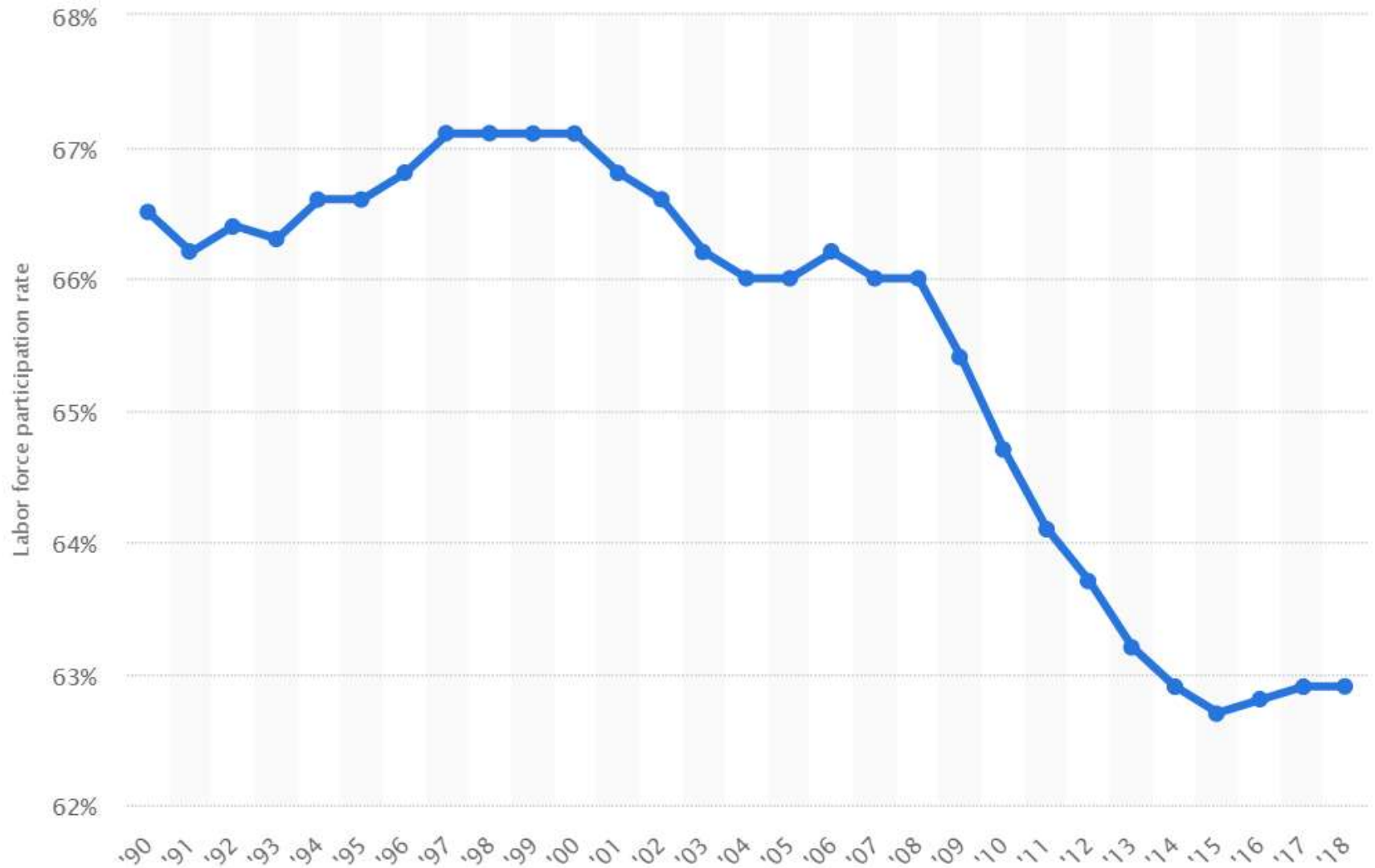


# 1 Timothy 5:8 (NET)

- But **if someone does not provide for his own,** especially his own family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



# Labor Participation Rate fell 5% in less than 20 years

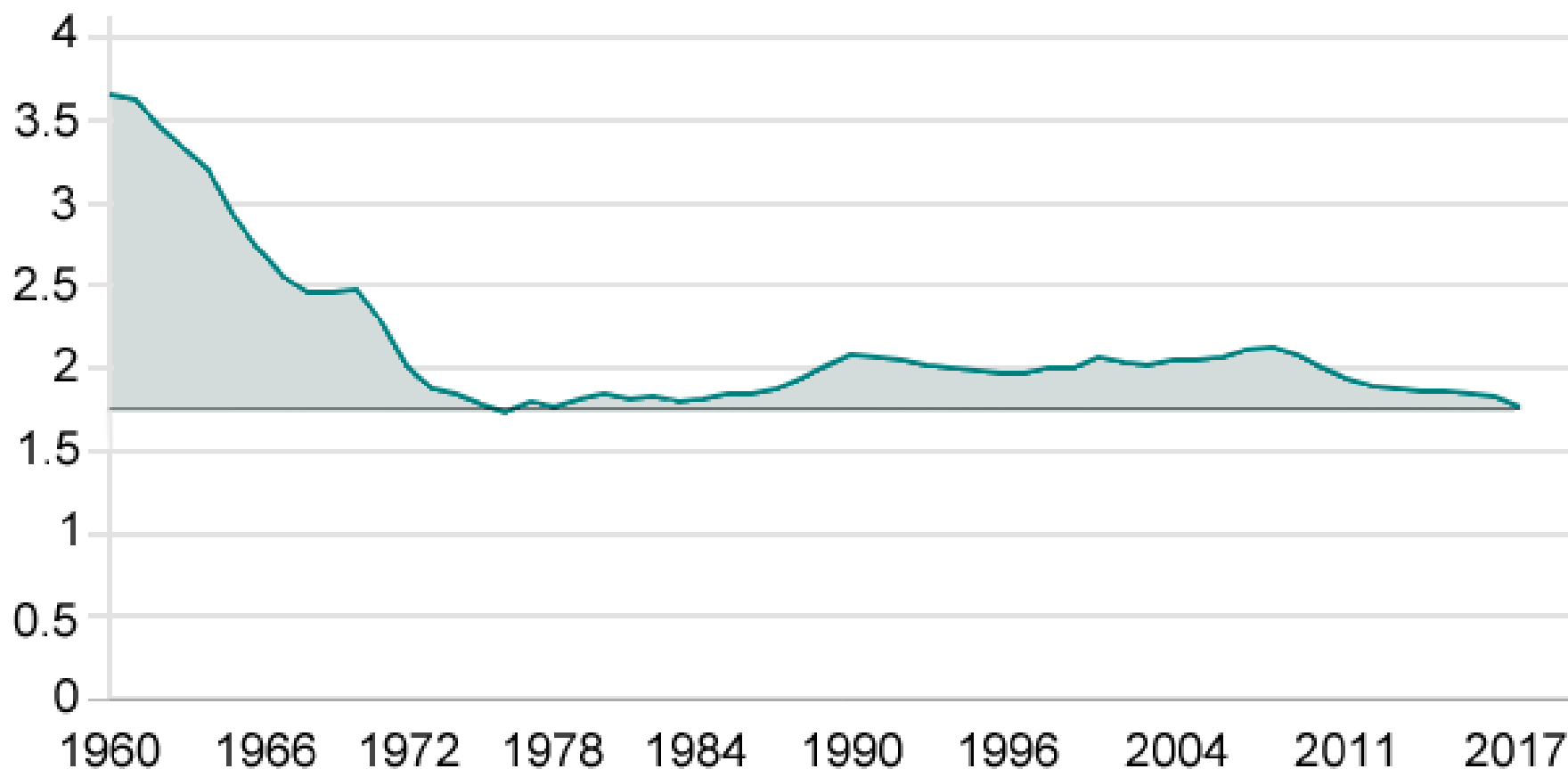




# Less participation in the labor rate is NOT because we have more mothers

## Lowest US fertility rate since 1978

Births per woman 1960-2017







# #4

Wisely stewarding  
one's time, personal  
income, health, and  
wealth





# **Stewarding = Carefully Managing**

- **Avoiding waste & foolish decisions**
- **Good eating habits**
- **Time management**
- **Proper rest v. laziness**
- **Physical and mental exercise**
- **Investing what God has given us**
- **Budgeting and careful spending**





# #5

Worshipping God in  
spirit and truth w/  
our mouth and lives





# #6

## Being generous with what God has provided





## Luke 6:38

- **Give,** and it will be given to you.  
Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.
- For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”





#7

# Loving our neighbor





# #8

## Pursuing sexual holiness

(marriage bed is undefiled)





# 1 Thessalonians 4:3

- For this is the will of God,  
your sanctification: that you  
abstain from sexual  
immorality;





# #9

## Praying one for another





#10

# Forgiving One Another





# #11

## Sharing the Gospel & Helping Make Disciples





# Matthew 28:19

- Go therefore and **make**  
**disciples of all nations,**  
baptizing them in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit,





# #12

## Expressing gratitude & being thankful





# 1 Thessalonians 5:18

- give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.





# #13

## Exercising Self-control





## 2 Peter 1:5 (NET & NASB)

- For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith** moral excellence, to excellence, knowledge;
- to knowledge, **self-control**; to self-control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness;





God is  
pleased  
when we





# #14

## Are Content





# Hebrews 13:5

- Keep your life free from love of money,  
**and be content with what you have,**  
for he has said, “I will never leave you  
nor forsake you.”





# #15

## Obey the Holy Spirit





# #16

## Meditate on Him and His Word





## Psalm 119:11

- I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

## Joshua 1:8

- This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.





# #17

Treat others with  
Dignity, Respect, &  
Kindness





## Ephesians 4:32

- **Be kind to one another,**  
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
as God in Christ forgave you.





# #18

## Dress Modestly





# #19

## Are Patient





# 1 Thessalonians 5:14

- And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.





# #20

## Do 'something' Good





## Ephesians 2:8–10

- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.