

## You were Planned for God's Pleasure

### I. HOW DO WE LIVE A LIFE OF WORSHIP, A LIFE PLEASING TO GOD?

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1,2 (NIV)*

1. You must \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to God. (v. 1)

❖ Worship is \_\_\_\_\_

❖ Worship is \_\_\_\_\_

*“Haven’t you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that he lives within you? Your own body does not belong to you. For God has bought you with a great price. So use every part of your body to give glory back to God because he owns it.”*

*1 Corinthians 6:19,20 (LB)*

❖ Worship is \_\_\_\_\_

2. You must learn the principle of \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 2)

3. You must learn the principle of \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 2b)

*“I always keep the Lord in front of me. When he is by my side, I cannot be moved. That is why my heart is glad and my soul rejoices. My body rests securely.” Psalm 16:8,9 (GW)*

### II. THREE REASONS WHY WE SHOULD LIVE FOR GOD’S PLEASURE

1. Living a life of worship is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Living a life of worship is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Living a life of worship is \_\_\_\_\_.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. You have just heard that the life lived for God's pleasure is the good life. Why is that such a radical statement in light of our culture?
2. When you hear the word "worship," what is the first thing that comes to mind? Have someone read aloud Romans 12:1. How does this verse define worship?
3. The Bible says God created you so He could love you, enjoy you, and adopt you into His family. Stop and ponder that statement for a moment. How does that make you feel and is it consistent with your view of God?
4. According to Matthew 22:37, what is God's greatest priority for your life? How does this compare to what you see in your own life?

## SERVE/SHARE

1. In Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said the two greatest commands are to love God and love our neighbor. How does living a life of worship (loving God) help you love the people around you?

## WORSHIP

1. Romans 12:2 says we should not conform to the values of the world in which we live. What are some of the subtle ways in which you are vulnerable to accepting the values of the world's culture?
2. What barriers keep you from dedicating your whole life to God?
3. As you begin your time of prayer, thank God that He has made you for His pleasure. Express, in short one-sentence prayers, your thankfulness that He has given you a good, enjoyable life custom-made for you. Ask God to show you areas you need to surrender to Him.

## ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Review Romans 12:1-2. What do you think it means to offer your body as a living sacrifice? What would our lives look like if we truly lived this way?
2. From the end of Romans 12:2, what are the benefits of offering our body as a living sacrifice and following the direction Paul has given us in verses 1 and 2?
3. How do you understand living the life described by Paul to be a demonstration of worship for God?

4. Read Psalm 16:8-9. What are some practical ways this week that you can always keep the Lord in front of you?

#### PREPARATION FOR NEXT TIME

1. Continue to follow the Reading Plan. If you get behind, don't be discouraged; just keep moving through the days, asking God to show you what He desires for you to see each day. We recommend writing down your thoughts and direction from the Lord as you go. Commit to answering the question, taking the step, or praying the prayer at the end of each chapter. Let this time become a meaningful time of reflection when God can speak His purposes and thoughts into your life.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 and Ephesians 4:11-16. What do we learn from these passages about how the body of Christ is to function?
3. Continue to pray for your friends you wanted to invite the first week. Be sure to call and invite them again. You never know — this may be the most important call they get all year.
4. Pray for the group member needs you wrote down on the prayer and praise list.