

Why We Do the Will of God

Understanding the Will of God (Part 5)

Introduction

- Throughout our series, we have implicitly recognized various reasons for knowing and doing the will of God, but we have not focused on such motivations.
- There are actually several wrong reasons for doing the will of God, which ultimately render our actions vain:
 - greediness – 1 Tim 6:5
 - recognition – Lk 11:43
 - people-pleasing – Gal 1:10
 - self-righteousness – Lk 16:15

Introduction

- It is vital, therefore, that we remove inappropriate motivations and do the will of God for the right reasons. In this study, we will examine biblical motivators and then suggest ways in which we can internalize such concepts.

Purpose

- Throughout the Bible, the understood purpose of the natural (and even supernatural) creation is to glorify God in submission – Eccl 12:13; see Ps 148:5.

(“Our greatest claim to nobility is our created capacity to know God, to be in personal relationship with Him, to love Him, and to worship Him. Indeed, we are most truly human when we are on our knees before our Creator,” John Stott.)

Purpose

- Throughout the Bible, the understood purpose of the natural (and even supernatural) creation is to glorify God in submission – Eccl 12:13; see Ps 148:5.
- Yet, as Christians, we should be especially attuned to our God-glorifying mission, because we have been recreated in the image of Jesus Christ – see Jn 5:30; 8:29; Col 3:10; Eph 5:8-10; 1 Pet 2:9.
- Thus, one way that we can acknowledge our purpose is to remove distractions and focus on Jesus – Heb 12:1-2.

Judgment

- Though some feel that discussion of divine judgment is unhelpful or outdated, it is a biblical motivator for doing the will of God – Eccl 12:14.
- There are temporal and eternal aspects of the wrath of God, and both should drive us to repentance and conformity to divine will – Acts 17:30-31.
- Concerning the final, eternal judgment, God promises to judge us fairly based on our obedience (or disobedience) to His word – Rom 2:5-8; Jn 12:48; Heb 4:12-13.

Judgment

- When we truly appreciate divine judgment, we will personally seek to please God and try to help others to do so as well – 2 Cor 5:9-11.
- There is value, then, in reminding ourselves of the coming judgment, studying both the Old and New Testaments and responding appropriately to God.

Trust

- God is trustworthy, and everything He demands of us is ultimately for our good. We, thus, do His will, because we trust (believe) Him – Deut 10:12-13; see Rom 8:28.
- We can know with certainty that God will providentially care for us, if we entrust ourselves to Him and commit ourselves to doing His will – Prov 3:5-6.
- While the Bible is indeed a pattern that must be followed, its primary intention is to reveal the nature of God so as to produce faith in us – Rom 10:17.

Love

- Love should be the prime motivator in any and every worthwhile endeavor and/or relationship—especially with reference to God – 1 Cor 13:1-3.
- This does not necessarily mean that we will always have positive feelings about doing the will of God, but love motivates action – Lk 22:41-44; Jn 14:31.
- If we love God, we will make every effort to do exactly what God desires of us (and such will not be a burden to us) – Jn 14:15; 2 Cor 5:14; 1 Jn 5:3; see Gen 29:20.

Love

- Since love is one of primary reasons why we do the will of God, it is imperative that we develop it within us. How, then, do we do this?
 - We can meditate on the love God has shown us – 1 Jn 4:19.
 - We can pray our love to God and ask Him to help us to grow in love – Ps 18:1; Phil 1:9.
 - We can obey God, which actually affirms and increases our love for Him – Jn 14:15.