

The Conditions for Acceptable Good Works

Creflo Dollar

Broadcast Dates: 6/9/23 & 6/12/23

Message Date: 3/12/23 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- Ephesians 2:10
- Ephesians 2:10, *NLT*
- John 21:15-17
- 1 John 4:19
- Revelation 2:1-5
- 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- 2 Corinthians 5:14
- 2 Corinthians 5:14, *NLT*
- 2 Corinthians 5:14, *NIV*
- Ephesians 5:2
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, *NLT*
- Ephesians 3:17-19, *NLT*
- 2 Timothy 1:7
- 1 John 4:17, 18
- 2 Corinthians 9:7
- 2 Corinthians 9:7, *NLT*
- John 15:15
- Romans 7:6, *NLT*
- Acts 20:24
- 2 Corinthians 8:2
- 2 Corinthians 8:2, *NLT*

Summary:

*We live surrounded by people who do good works simply for the sake of doing good. Technically, there is nothing wrong with service to others; however, a deeper look will reveal the true motives behind their actions. Although serving and working for God is fine, it is useless if our motivation for doing so is to earn His favor or to fulfill some kind of duty or obligation to Him. God prefers for us to have love and devotion for Him, first; the good works He wants to see will come out of those motives. We do not have to do good works to “pay Him back,” as if we were in debt to Him for showing us favor; realizing that **Jesus** paid our debts and cleared away our sins when He died on the cross because of His love for us changes the reasons for what we do. Motivations based in anything other than love are unacceptable to God. Faith in His love for us always keeps our motives pure.*

Notes:

1. We were created not just to do good works, but good works motivated by God’s love. Good works by themselves, with no love for God as the motivation behind them, are unacceptable to Him. Love must be our only motive; without it, all of our service will be in vain.
2. We cannot properly love God until we understand that the only reason we can love Him at all is because *He* loved *us*, first. Believing in God’s love for us requires faith; this enables us to take possession of all the free gifts He has for us.
3. A second condition for acceptable good works is an understanding that fear is a false motive. Fear has no place in the life of a believer. When it shows up, it is from the enemy, not from God.
4. The third requirement for acceptable good works is that they must be voluntary, joyful service. Labors of love result from a relationship with God and are never done grudgingly, but always joyfully. Good works should not be performed reluctantly or in response to pressure.

Category: spiritual growth

Keywords: acceptable, good, works, motive, actions, motivation, love, devotion