

The Conditions for Acceptable Good Works (Part 2)

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Broadcast Dates: 6/13/23-6/14/23

Message Date: 3/19/23 ● 10:00 A.M.

Scriptures:

- Ephesians 2:10
- Luke 10:38-42
- 1 John 4:19
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- Romans 12:1
- 1 Corinthians 1:10
- 1 Thessalonians 4:10-12
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11, 12, *NLT*
- Romans 6:12
- Galatians 5:26
- Galatians 6:9
- Ephesians 4:28, 31
- 2 Corinthians 5:15
- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Colossians 3:17

Summary:

*On the surface, it is always good to do good. This is what the world and religion tells us; however, to be pleasing to God, we must examine the motives behind our actions. Being motivated by anything other than Jesus will frustrate and burden us, which is why we need to receive **from** Him before we can work **for** Him. Love must be our motive for everything we do in response to God's grace. Believing in God's love for us shapes our motivations so that we voluntarily and joyfully obey His Word because we want to, not because we feel we have to. Although refusing to love others and engage in Christian conduct has consequences and opens us up for the enemy to work in our lives, God does not require us to do anything, because we are free moral agents. Whatever we choose to do or not do is entirely up to us; choosing to comply with God because of our faith in His love influences the entire direction of our lives.*

Notes:

1. Pure motives for doing anything will always be based in faith in the love God has for us.
2. There are conditions for our works to be acceptable to God. The works that we perform must be voluntary and joyful. Whatever we do must spring from our hearts; we must *want* to do it. Our service must never be thought of as a duty, a responsibility, or an obligation.
3. God is asking for our obedience, not demanding it. He does not want guilt or shame to make us do something; He would rather we do it because we want to. Our hearts must be in it. God wants us to do right, but He will respect our right to choose. He never forces us.
4. Pleasing God must come from a willing heart. It is our voluntary decision to do right. Volunteering our bodies lets God work through us to bless others. Our full cooperation is needed for this.
5. Fear is a false motive. The fear of God's wrath and punishment is something religion created to motivate us.

Category: spiritual growth

Keywords: acceptable, good, works, motives, actions, love, believing, motivations