**WHAT DOES GOD LIKE?**

What does God like? What pleases Him and what makes His heart well up with joy? If you are in a relationship that is of any value to you, you tend to want to seek out and ask the question "what do they like?" and "what do they dislike?" These are good questions to ask. As for the believer, there is no relationship of higher value and significance than the relationship we, by grace, get to have with our God.

There are many different layers to answering the question "what does God like?" but today, we will focus in on one aspect of this...

**1 PETER CONTEXT**

1 Peter is written by the Apostle Peter who was known as the Apostle of Hope. He wrote 1 Peter to a group of believers that were facing extreme persecution & opposition because of their faith in Christ. The society & government were making life difficult for these Christians & Peter through the Spirit’s leading writes a letter to bring them hope.

*1 Peter 2:4-5 “4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

Peter is using the imagery of Old Testament & Old Covenant priests.

**OLD TESTAMENT REFRESH**

In the Old Testament, God chose the Jewish people to be His people. The OT is filled with historical documents containing the genealogy and records of God’s people, and God chose specifically to first dwell in a portable Tabernacle.

**THE TABERNACLE:**

* Like a big tent.
* God's presence was there.
* People would gather there, and leaders like Moses and David would be there regularly.
* Built by Solomon, the son of King David.
* A HUGE and beautiful temple where now God would dwell.
* Only the high priests were allowed to enter into God’s presence and make sacrifices on behalf of themselves and the people. Nobody else was allowed to enter God’s presence or they would die.

**JESUS AND THE CURTAIN**

*Matthew 27:51 (ESV)* says, right after Jesus breathed His last breath... *“51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”*

This 60 feet long, 30 feet high, 4 inch thick curtain tore in half from top to bottom! Why???

1. It was a powerful prophetic statement from God saying no longer will a curtain separate my presence from my people.
2. It was a powerful statement from God that what happened on the cross will now allow all believers to enter His presence.

**SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE**

The OT priests offered physical sacrifices that were accepted by God, but let’s go back to verse 5 of 1 Peter 2.

*1 Peter 2:5 As a holy priesthood we are “to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

Here is where we begin to see what it is that God likes. As God's New Covenant priesthood that are IN Christ, covered by His blood and made holy, we are not required to offer physical sacrifices. We are now called to offer spiritual sacrifices to God which is what pleases Him.

*Hebrews 13:16 (ESV) says "16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Doing good, serving others, generosity...all are sacrifices that are pleasing to God.*

*Romans 12:1 says “12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” It pleases God when we live in purity & holiness.*

**SACRIFICE OF PRAISE**

*Hebrews 13:15 (ESV) says “15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.”*

God loves a worshipping priesthood. When His priests offer up the sacrifice of praising His name with their voices, it is pleasing to Him.

**FORM AND HEART**

**If your form is right but your heart is wrong, then all is wrong.** The right form/the right action partnered with the wrong heart posture is actually displeasing to the Lord. He doesn’t like it - in fact, He hates it. God delights in right form FROM a right heart.

**SO WHAT DOES GOD LIKE?**

**WORSHIP - but TRUE worship is right form, right heart. God loves a worshipping priesthood!**

**Corporate worship is not about the people on the stage.**Corporate worship is about **ALL OF US. TOGETHER.**The ones on the stage and off the stage, erupting in praise to our Lord and singing together and worshipping Him.

**Worship is to bless God, not us.**Worship is not entertainment to watch to make the audience feel good, cheered up, or inspired.

Worship is about ALL of us coming before God to glorify Him and praise His name - to please HIM because He likes it and deserves ALL our praise!

We may be blessed in the process of praising Him but that is not the point.

**THERE IS POWER IN A WORSHIPPING PRIESTHOOD!**

A worshipping priesthood is the most powerful group of people on the face of this earth, and incredibly, this is US -- IF we realize it.

Do you realize it?