

Saturday Celebration (7-22-06)  
**"Wanting What God Wants"**

Freedom Series (Pt. 4)

**REVIEW** .... Last week we addressed the reality of our Jail Cells remaining in existence, because we want something that's inside of them— or we want to AVOID the Discomfort of Life Outside of them.

***"If You Don't Start Wanting the Right Thing, then You'll NEVER Get Free from Bondage!"***

2 QUESTIONS This Week:

- (1) What Does God Want? ... that we may "Want What He Wants"
- (2) Why Should I Want That? ....

## **(1) WHAT DOES GOD WANT?**

***"Everything about our Lives Was Designed for a Purpose— If you Miss the Purpose, You'll Try to Find Pleasure in the Wrong Place"***

***"Why marriage? Why is there marriage? Why does marriage exist? Why do we live in marriages? This means that my topic is part of a larger question: Why does anything exist? Why do you exist? Why does sex exist? Why do earth and sun and moon and stars exist? Why do animals and plants and oceans and mountains and atoms and galaxies exist? The answer to all these questions, including the one about marriage is: all of them exist to and for the glory of God. ... That is, they exist to magnify the truth and worth and beauty and greatness of God. ... God is unimaginably great and infinitely valuable and unsurpassed in beauty. Everything that exists is meant to magnify that reality."*** John Piper, *Building Strong Families*, p. 91

### WHY DO I EXIST?

#### **(1) Creation Exists to Show Forth the Glory of God**

**Ps 19:1-2**

**Hab 2:14** For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

#### **(2) I Exist as a Man within Creation, to Uniquely Display the Glory of God in His Image**

**Gen 1:26-27** .... God is "IMAGING" in His Creation — "Let us make man in our IMAGE"

**Is 43:6-7** "I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,"

**1 Peter 2:9** But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**Rom 8:29** For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the

image of His Son,

2 Cor 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory,

Phil 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory,

*“ Having kids isn’t about us— it’s about Him. We are called to bear and raise children for the glory of God. Most of us are inherently selfish when it comes to raising children. We’re hoping for some benefit to come our way, and when we wake up to the truth that children can be embarrassing as well as exemplary, we become resentful and bitter, and a foul spiritual climate can soon take over the home. When we don’t understand the purpose of parenting, the process becomes tedious. ... Here’s a thought: Let’s accept that both marriage and parenting provide many good moments while also challenging us to the very root of our being. ... It becomes a sacred enterprise when we finally understand that God can baptize dirty diapers, toddlers’ tantrums, and teenagers’ silence in order to transform us into people who more closely resemble Jesus Christ.” Gary Thomas, “Sacred Parenting”, p. 16-17*

***God is at Work Accomplishing This Task — and in order to do that He Must FREE US from the power of Sin that seeks to conform us to this world, the flesh, the image of man in Adam!***

*“ For this Christ died for this He rose for this He sent you His Holy Spirit; there is nothing under the glory of His own name that He wills with more intensity than your freedom.” John Piper*

Isa 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; 2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To grant those who mourn in Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

***— Do you believe that God is more than just aware of bondages, but that he AIMS at Them in Order to Proclaim His Glory Over Them? ....***  
God’s glory being revealed in the Display of His COMPASSION .... His MERCY .... His POWER

## THE GLORY OF GOD’S TRIUMPH OVER OUR JAIL CELLS

**The Exodus** — Consider the above statement in light of **Rom 9:17**

— When God Delivers his people from bondage, He puts the IDOLS OF BONDAGE ON DISPLAY and Triumphs Over Them!!(Col 2) — The 10 PLAGUES

**PLAGUE** (def) = cause continual trouble or distress to. 2 pester or harass continually. -ORIGIN Latin plaga 'stroke, wound'.

***What Are Today’s “PLAGUES” on Society?***

- **The Plague of LUST**
- **The Plague of SENSUALITY**
- **The Plague of an "APPEARANCE BASED CULTURE"**
- **The Plague of SENSATION-ALISM**
- **The Plague of GREED**
- **The Plague of MAN-WORSHIP**

***What Does God Want? .... God wants to Show the Glory of His TRIUMPH Over the Plague of Sin that Seeks to Control Men! .... And He does so by Convincing Our Hearts that He is More Desirable than the Reward of Sin (Then the Pleasure of the Bait).***

***"The joy of the Lord will arm us against the assaults of our spiritual enemies and put our mouths out of taste for those pleasures with which the tempter baits his hooks."*** **Matthew Henry** (quoted in "Desiring God", p. 12)

***"I know of no other way to triumph over sin long-term than to gain a distaste for it because of a superior satisfaction in God."*** **John Piper**, "Desiring God", p. 12

## **(2) WHY SHOULD I WANT WHAT GOD WANTS? ....**

- a. Because I Love God Being Glorified more than My Flesh being Comfortable***
- b. Because I Believe God's Promises about My Own Protection & Pleasure***

**Ps 16**