

What Pleases God: Uprightness

Ponder:

Scripture: “I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness” (1 Chron. 29:17, NKJV).

“Sit up straight!” Countless times I heard that from my mother. She was right. Good posture helps us be healthy as well as making us appear alert and attentive.

David’s word for “uprightness” literally means to be straight, but has nothing to do with physical posture. It pertains to the heart (not the blood pump, but the inner person). David had just contributed vast personal wealth for Solomon to use in building the temple. David had no ulterior motives. Genuine love for God had motivated him to give; he knew God would be pleased with his upright heart.

People are known by the company they keep. The same may be said for words. To better understand uprightness, look at some words that the Bible pairs with it. For example, God told Solomon, “Now if you walk before Me as David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness . . . then I will establish the throne of your kingdom” (1 Kings 9:4-5). Integrity means wholeness (just as an integer is a whole number). God has always been pleased with people who serve Him wholly.

Solomon also equated uprightness with truth. “The preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright – words of truth” (Eccl. 12:10). Since God is the God of truth (Isa. 65:16), He naturally is pleased when people communicate words of truth.

Scripture also contrasts uprightness with sinful behavior. Proverbs 2:13 warns of “those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness.” Darkness refers to sin, so uprightness would be just the opposite. The same point is made in Proverbs 14:2. “He who walks in his uprightness fears the lord, but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.” Obviously fearing God and despising Him are opposites, as are uprightness and perversity.

Jesus always did what pleased God, and we should strive to do the same. Behaving uprightly with integrity and truth, holding God in reverence and living in the light of His word will undoubtedly please our Heavenly Father.

Song: “Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

Prayer: Holy Father, help us to be more like Jesus, who always did what pleased You. We fall so far short! Please forgive us as You cleanse us with His blood, In His name, Amen.