



Session 12 God's Pleasures

INSTRUCTOR



STEPHEN BECK PhD. Stephen is a career church planter and church planting instructor. He has served with the Redeemer Church Planting network in Canada, more recently with Greater Europe Mission in Germany. He is considered one of the "cutting edge" Greater Europe Missionaries in this regard. He is a Professor of Practical Theology at Freie Theologische Hochschule in Giessen, Germany. He has also been guest lecturer at several institutions on the European continent. He is married to Susan, and they have four children. In 2011 Stephen and Susan embarked on yet another journey: together with 25 college students they planted a multi-everything church for the Frankfurt metro region. Through the refugee wave that came over Germany, this church multiplied to 15 congregations in 6 years.

Goals

This 14-session course will focus at the Definition of “Christian Spirituality”; a gospel-driven Spirituality; Christ – the goal of our spirituality; the role of the Holy Spirit in our spiritual formation; 4 aspects of God the Father that are cornerstones in spiritual formation: sovereignty, holiness, love, pleasures of God.

Sessions Overview

1. Foundations
2. Christ as the Foundation
3. The Holy Spirit-Introduction
4. The Holy Spirit and New Birth
5. The Holy Spirit and Control of Body
6. The Holy Spirit and Impressions
7. The Holy Spirit and Help
8. God's Sovereignty
9. God' Holiness
10. God's Love
11. Character Development
- 12. God's Pleasures**
13. Gospel Driven-Part 1
14. Gospel Driven-Part 2

Session Summary

Christian spiritual formation requires self-examination and God-examination. In this session, Dr. Beck challenges us to learn, know, and live the pleasures of God, and why this is essential for dynamic Christian spirituality.

Fill in the Blanks

1. All humans have the deep desire to experience pleasure; our desires are good, but we often go about them in the wrong way and pursue the wrong things. What are some examples from your life where you were pursuing pleasure with things that didn't satisfy?

2. Often, we interact with people who are seeking empty pleasures in an effort to satisfy their longing for God. How can this awareness help foster a sense of compassion for them? How can we help them understand that they are really searching for God?

3. What does God take pleasure in?

4. What does 1 Corinthians 10:31 say about the pleasure God feels and the pleasure God wants us to feel?

5. What do Psalm 16:11 and Psalm 37:4 say about pleasure?

6. Is it hard for you to believe that God wants you to experience pleasure? Why or why not?

7. How do we enter into the pleasures of God?

8. What is the result of the character that develops when entering into God's pleasures?
