



# TGC TIMES

*The official newsletter of Tamil Gospel Church*

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## PASTOR PLEASING, PEOPLE PLEASING OR GOD PLEASING

**By Pastor Solomon Karunakaran**

Churches have a culture of their own. Certain cultural traits are common while others are unique. Generally, a church can fall under two common cultural traits, a pastor pleasing church or people pleasing church. Neither of them is recommended in Scripture. We are only called to be a God pleasing church. How can we please God? By loving God and keeping all His commands. Sounds simple but difficult to do.

In this context, loving and pleasing people are two different things. It is not wrong to please people if it lines up with Scripture. And you can love without pleasing people. Jesus did that. In the incident recorded in John 4, Jesus's interaction with the Samaritan woman reveals this difference. He loved her but did not please her. He accepted her but did not approve of her way of life. Instead, He spoke the truth in love and drew her back to live in obedience to the Scriptures. It is one of the most difficult things to do in Christian life. Paul writes in, "Ephesians 4: 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work ..... 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body." Understanding this significant difference between loving and pleasing people is a sign of spiritual maturity and growth.

Therefore, if the Pastor works to please the people he will not be a servant of Christ. Paul writes in Galatians 1:10, in the context of preaching and teaching the true gospel " 10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." To be a true servant of Christ is to be obedient to the gospel commands and its consequences. In Romans 14, he writes: " 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of

righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. 19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." When we receive human approval because of righteousness (living according to the commands in Scripture uncompromisingly), seeking peace and mutual edification, it is scripturally valid otherwise it is just flattery. When we seek to please God first, the Lord will allow us to receive the minimum human approval we need to continue doing His perfect will.

On the flip side, if the people do anything in contrary to the Scripture to just, please the Pastor or even other people, they are not God pleasers. The scripture clearly outlines what to do to please God in the context of church leadership and people. The writer says in Hebrews 13:17, " 17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you." Obeying all of God's commands is the evidence of a child of God who loves and pleases God.

Dear TGC family, let us strive only to please God and not the pastor or people.

PS

gettyimages  
Credit: smartboy10

## March Birthdays

John Wesley Joseph	March 02
Daniel Sam Abraham	March 03
Nalanda Devaraj	March 04
Blezo Philip Geopher	March 05
Florence Daniel	March 05
Fiona Newton	March 07
Raj Premkumar	March 10
Win Russal	March 19
Gracia Amirtharaj	March 19
Shyamala Karthickeyan	March 19
Nancy Kingsley	March 20
Evelin Win	March 20
Leah Devaraj	March 21
Jesintha Benneaser	March 22
Jebastine Vetharaj	March 24
Soumya Nelson Mathad	March 24
Melinda Naomi Ebenezer	March 26
John Dillip	March 26
Abigail Sharon Abraham	March 28
Faustina Joshua	March 29

## March Anniversaries

Joel Nishbert Joe Duraimony & Deepa Joel

March 03

## Announcements

### 2025 Lenten Home Meetings

#### Carry Your Cross

March 8th - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Bro. Jebastine Vetharaj's Residence, Robbinsville, NJ

March 15th - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Bro. Bilson Gyanaraj's Residence, Monroe, NJ

March 22nd - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Bro. Raj Premkumar's Residence, East Windsor, NJ

March 29th - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Bro. Franklin Abraham's Residence, Morganville, NJ

April 5th - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Bro. David Livingstone's Residence, Monmouth Junction, NJ

April 12th - 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Tamil Gospel Church, , Monmouth Junction, NJ

### First Saturday Morning Prayer

March 1st @ 7:00 to 7:30 AM via  
Zoom

### Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th @ 6:00 to 7:00 PM

### Sunday Service

Every Sunday @ 5:00 PM

### Resurrection Sunrise Service\*

April 20th @ 6:30 AM

### Pastoral Update:

Please reach out to Pastor Solomon  
for prayer needs and house visits

*no regular sunday service\**