

# PLEASURE OR PRINCIPLE

Genesis chapter 39 through chapter 41

By: Fountain Hendricks

Asking the question what is more important, pleasure or principle is easy to answer. However, being faced with this option in the midst of temptation is difficult. There is a huge difference between pleasure and principle.

Pleasure is a **SELF** fulfilled desire. Principles are **VALUES** you stand by. In the presence of comfort most people will promote how they are a principled person. They will explain how they are committed to their values. However, this statement means nothing until it has been tested.

Very few people choose principle over pleasure when they are in the midst of being tested or tempted. You may be thinking, how does this topic relate to ministry? The answer is simple.

Many preachers have fallen from grace because they chose pleasure over principle. An abundance of churches have lost their influence with the community because they chose pleasure over principle. Choosing pleasure over principle will give you short term gratification, yet long term regret.

Choosing principle over pleasure will give you short term pain, yet long term honor. Nelson Mandela chose principle over pleasure. He suffered for twenty seven years in prison. However, he is still honored and admired even in death.

Joseph chose principle over pleasure. He suffered for over five years. He was a slave and a prisoner because he refused to compromise his values. Joseph decided to honor his master instead of receiving sexual pleasure from Potiphar's wife.

Joseph's decision to choose principle over pleasure positioned him to be exalted by God and become the 2nd in command over Egypt. Reference Genesis chapter 39 through 41. Are you a person who is willing to give up immediate gratification for long term honor?

## A LIFE OF PLEASURE

A life of pleasure **WITHOUT** principle produces fun yet frustration. It creates happiness, yet discontentment. It brings a smile, yet regret. It creates satisfaction, yet sadness. It exudes energy, yet mental depression.

A life of pleasure is misleading. Many ministry leaders have fallen on the alter of pleasure, losing more than they realized. Out of respect, I will not mention the ministries and ministers who have been disgraced over the years. However, mega ministries and ministers have lost what God gave them because they chose pleasure over principle.

Ask God to prepare your heart to stand the test and trials of life so you can choose to live a principled life. Start now to equip yourself with the **VALUES** of the Kingdom of God so you can be ready when these tests occur.

## PURSUE RIGHTEOUS VALUES!

Righteous values keeps you strong in times of weakness. Righteous values keeps you stable when you are criticized. Righteous values keeps you whole when people leave you. Righteous values keeps you confident when your efforts are questioned.

RIGHTEOUS VALUES ARE DEVELOPED WITHIN  
YOU WHEN YOU STUDY THE KINGDOM LAWS  
OF GOD DAILY!

## A PRINCIPLED LIFE

A principled life builds your legacy, reputation, statue, respect, influence and admiration amongst God and people. Living a principled life is **NOT** easy.

People who live principled lives are highly misunderstood because they are controlled by what they believe. They are **NOT** moved by what they feel. Even if their belief puts them in a hardship, they stick with it.

Ministries who value principle stand the tests of time. They outlast the latest trends. They understand their values keeps them firm as the world changes.

Values teach people what you accept and what you do not accept. Values tells God if you are like grass or if you're planted like a palm tree. Grass withers away. Palm trees are established.

When you are established with righteous values you will be honored in the end. Do not become discourage in the

beginning or middle of your journey. Principled people **FOCUS** on the **END**.

Will you be persecuted? Yes. Will you be criticized? Yes. Will you be misunderstood? Yes. You are not excluded from trouble if you are a principled person.

In actuality, you are controversial. Principled people who speak up in a lawless society will always be controversial. However, if you sustain your values as a minister in your ministry God will honor you!

Do not fall to peer pressure. Do not fall to public pressure. Choose principle over pleasure. If you do, your **WORK WILL NOT BE IN VAIN!**

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