

1. Which of the following ideas is closest to your idea of God? List characteristics of the life driven by each of the ideas.
 - a. God exists to make me happy.
 - b. I exist to make God happy.Why is it important to understand Jesus' teaching to be motivated by more than our personal happiness?
2. The beatitudes are not an "entrance exam" to get into the kingdom of Heaven. They are not even 'required homework' for Christians. Rather, they are the unique attitudes that every Christian possesses that make him distinctly different. Why do we so often make the mistake of reducing the teachings of the Bible to a list of "dos and don'ts?" Why is it dangerous to know right and do right without being right?
3. Blessed is another word for "approved." Is it possible to do anything to win the approval of a holy God? God approves us on the merits of Christ. But the life God approves is characterized by 8 things listed in Matt. 5:1-12.
4. Discuss each attitude, and then point out examples of how each attitude has shown itself in your life or the lives of others in your group in the last 30 days.
 - a. Those who are poor in spirit
 - b. Those who mourn
 - c. Those who are meek
 - d. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
 - e. Those who are merciful
 - f. Those who are pure in heart
 - g. Those who are peacemakers
 - h. Those who are persecuted for righteousness.
5. How do those who are merciful treat those who are poor in spirit?
6. How do those who are pure in heart value mourning over sin?
7. How do those who are peacemakers encourage those who are meek and those who persecute them?
8. Read Psalm 51. Which of the beatitudes do you see in this Psalm? In order to cultivate a life that God approves, personalize and meditate on this chapter. Make it your prayer everyday this week.