

## Gaining God's Approbation

"For unto me the children of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." Leviticus 25:55

For most Christians, their expectations of God exceed what God is willing to do for them. People may not logically think about it, but this leads them to neglect God's expectations of them "God will not meet my expectations, therefore I am unwilling to meet His expectations."

You can see a variety of illustrations of this tendency:

- God wants me to be grateful, but because He does not treat me the way I think He ought to treat me, I will not be grateful.

- It is not reasonable that God denies my desires, and therefore I will not submit to what He asks if it appears unreasonable to me.

- God says that He will meet all my needs,<sup>1</sup> but because He does not do this according to my expectations, I meet my own needs, even though He tells me not to.<sup>2</sup>

- I am willing to serve God because He loves me, but when He treats me in what I think to be an unloving way, I refuse to serve Him.

These are merely illustrative of the many ways we insist on serving God on **our terms**. You cannot insist on defining your relationship with God and gain His approbation; the two are mutually exclusive.