



Proverbs

Becoming Pleasure-Seeking Christians



1.



OUR CULTURAL CONTEXT?

Pleasure

1 Corinthians 15:32

What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

Becoming Pleasure-Seeking Christians

1. Pleasure is typically defined as the gratification of the senses or mind
2. Happiness is produced by the expectation or enjoyment of something good, delightful, or satisfying.





THEOLOGY OF PLEASURE

Pleasure

God's people should **enjoy** their life

Psalm 68:3 - But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy.

Proverbs 3:13 - Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding

Proverbs 3:18 - She is a treat to those who lay hold of her; those who hold fast to her are called blessed

Why?
IMAGE

3.





THEOLOGY OF PLEASURE

Pleasure

Does Satan **create**? **NO**

Does Satan **distort**? **YES**

Proverbs

Pleasure comes from God and can become distorted

Hebrews 11:24-25

By faith, Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.





A THEOLOGY OF PLEASURE

Pleasure

Does Satan **create**? **NO** Does Satan **distort**? **YES**

Pleasure comes from God and can become distorted

2 Timothy 3:1-5

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, without self control, brutal, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of Godliness but denying its power. Avoid such people.



RECLAIMING PLEASURE

Pleasure

Psalm 37:4 - Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart

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Proverbs 13:19 - A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools.

Proverbs 15:30 - The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones.

Proverbs 10:28 - The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.

Proverbs 28:14 - Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always, but whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity

6. [Group]





JOYING PLEASURE

Pleasure

Nehemiah 8:10 - Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine, and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

1. The joy you seek, **only Christ possesses**
2. Joy comes from the Lord, and is intended to **strengthen**

Proverbs 15:12 - A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

Proverbs 15:15 - All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.

Proverbs 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

7.





CAUTION: WHAT ROBBS US OF PLEASURE?

Pleasure

1. Dumb Rules

Christianity means **freedom for Life!**

Will focusing on obedience cause obedience? **NO**

Focusing on and **enjoying** Christ will cause obedience

Why? Because delighting in him, your heart will be changed

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” **C.S. Lewis**





2. De-Imaging

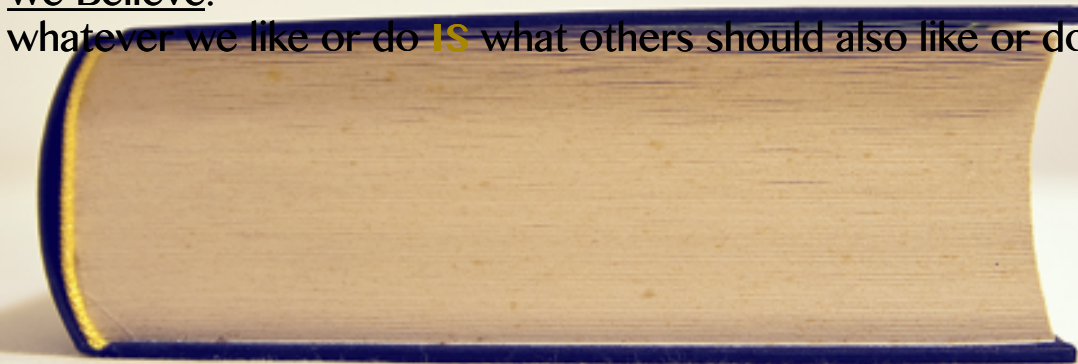
Proverbs 30:12

There are those who are clean in their own eyes, but are not washed of their filth.

We Believe:

whatever we like or do **IS** what others should also like or do

Proverbs





3. Dumb Idols

Proverbs 12:20

Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy.

Proverbs

We worship the things we are supposed to enjoy - **ROM 1**

We worship "**not worshipping anything**"





1. You should enjoy your life
2. Turn dreams into visions
3. Gain your framework from Scripture, not people
4. Don't construct your own framework of right and wrong and sit as judge

Proverbs

