

Masquerade – Unmasking the Lies We Believe – Hedonism

“Hedonism is the pursuit of pleasure and/or sensual self-indulgence. It says pleasure (in the sense of the satisfaction of desires) is the highest good and proper aim of human life” (Google).

- Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But realize this, that in the last days, difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

1. Hedonism doesn't bring _____.

- Ecclesiastes 1:2 “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.”
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
- Galatians 6:8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature.

2. God's _____ for us.

- His primary goal is not our happiness but our _____.
- 1 Peter 1:13-16 “Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; 16 because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”
- “Holy” in its most basic form means “_____.”
1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

3. The _____ of happiness

- Adjective: delighted, pleased, or glad, lucky, favored by fortune, prosperous;" of events, "turning out well,"
- Psalm 68:3 “But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.”
- “Happy is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord; and on his law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:1-2).

Conclusion:

- 2 Peter 3:11-12 “Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”

Further Thought:

- 1 – What examples of hedonism have you seen in our world? In your life?
- 2 – What is the central, core problem with hedonism? Other than Solomon, can you think of other biblical examples of people pursuing pleasure (happiness) instead of holiness? What was the outcome?
- 3 – Make a list of antidotes to hedonism and pick one or two that you will pursue.