

Does God Want His People to be Unhappy?

A. PLEASURE MAY BE WRONG *(Just because it feels good doesn't make it "OK.")*

1. *(1 Tim. 5:6)* But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.
2. *(2 Tim. 3:1-4)* But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money....**lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God.
3. *(Heb. 11:24-26)* By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.
4. *(1 Pet. 4:4)* In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

B. GOD'S LOVING PROVISION

1. *(Psalm 16:11)* You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
2. *(Psalm 34:10)* The young lions lack and suffer hunger; but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.
3. *(Psalm 36:7-8)* How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. ⁸They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.
4. *(Psalm 84:11)* For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

5. *(Acts 14:17)* Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.
6. *(2 Cor. 8:9)* For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
7. *(1 Tim. 6:17)* Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.
8. *(James 1:17)* Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

C. UNUSUAL SOURCE OF CHRISTIAN JOY

1. *(Matt. 5:11-12)* Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
2. *(2 Cor. 12:10)* Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
3. *(James 1:2-3)* My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.