



Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

Pursuing Pleasure... in God

Pleasure: “Being pleased; enjoyment; delight; satisfaction.”

KEY POINT:

It is not seeking pleasure in life that causes us problems, it is where we seek our pleasure.

...put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. (1 Timothy 6:17)

I. God created us to pursue _____.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)

3 POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Pursuing pleasure is not the same as having fun.
- Pursuing pleasure is not the same as pursuing happiness.
- Pursuing pleasure requires discipline and self-sacrifice.

...he [Moses] was looking ahead to his reward. (Hebrews 11:26)

Jesus... for the joy set before him he endured the cross... (Hebrews 12:2)

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

II. Worldly pleasure is fleeting and will not _____.

I thought in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” (Ecclesiastes 2:1)

See Solomon’s story in Ecclesiastes Chapter 2...

*Laughter (v.2); drinking (v.3); work/achievements (v.4); servants/relaxing (v.7);
wealth, entertainment, sex (v.8); wisdom (v.12)*

I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. (Ecclesiastes 2:10)

So I hated life... All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. (Ecclesiastes 2:17)

III. Lasting pleasure is found only in _____.

KEY POINT:

Our quest is not merely joy - it is joy in God. Our quest is not simply pleasure – it is finding pleasure in God.

A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment? (Ecclesiastes 2:24-25)

He has also set eternity in the hearts of men... (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

IV. Taking pleasure in God is _____ and gives Him the most glory.

Because you did not serve the Lord your God joyfully and gladly... you will serve (your) enemies.... (Deuteronomy 28:47-48)

Q) Why is God so concerned about our joy that He commands it?

Because a person has already made a god out of whatever he enjoys the most.

Delight yourself in the Lord... (Psalm 37:4)

See also...

Romans 12:11 - have zeal and fervency

1 Peter 1:22 - love earnestly

Hebrews 13:17 - work with joy

Romans 12:8 - be cheerful

You can remain joyful in the midst of suffering.

...rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. (1 Peter 4:13)

...we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out his love into our hearts... (Romans 5:3-5)

1. Because God is with you.

"I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5 ESV)

...granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. (Psalm 16:11)

2. Because God has a plan for you.

...in all things God works for the good of those who love Him... (Romans 8:28)

3. Because God will help you.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

When we find pleasure in Him... we are most satisfied and He is most glorified.