

# DOES GOD REALLY WANT ME TO BE HAPPY?

## Ecclesiastes 4:4-6

**Introduction:** Sometimes it seems that Christians have it harder than anybody else around. They seem to have more problems, more difficulties, yet they talk about God and how God loves them and how God takes care of them. With all that happens sometimes, the question comes to some, "does God really want me to be happy?" It doesn't seem so for some.

### 1. How high a priority is "happiness?"

- What do people want most out of life?
- What does it take to make most people happy?
- What does it mean to "be happy?"

### 2. Search for happiness

- People are constantly searching for happiness.
  - Expensive living places, education, life with no attachments.
  - Finest eating, high incomes, travel, buying anything they want.
- Are people happier today than a generation ago?
  - Microwave ovens, jet travel, air conditioning.
  - Agricultural life, unpleasant jobs, disease
  - Rich nations vrs poor nations

### 3. Does affluence make one happy?

- Can you remember when you had less? Were you any less happy than you are now?
  - Today's luxuries become tomorrow's necessities.
- Ever have enough things to be totally happy-satisfied?
  - Don't we measure our happiness by what others have?
  - Story is told that firemen in a certain city negotiated for a new contract and were satisfied until they discovered that the policemen got a bigger contract.
  - We measure our situation in life by those who are just ahead of us on the ladder of success.
- Define "happiness."
  - "Freedom" means being left alone by others, not having other people's values, ideas or styles of life forced upon one, being free of arbitrary authority in work, family and political life.
- We try to be happy without asking what we are doing with our lives.
  - What do you want most out of life?
  - Don't we all want just a little more out of life than we already have?

#### 4. God invitation to Joy.

- Why do some give up "religion" as soon as they get into adulthood? Rules of religion, do's and don'ts, all the fun of life is taken out by those things.
- *Deuteronomy 16:11* - Can a person just "decide" to be happy and be happy?
- *Psalm 1:1-2* - The Law was God's gift to Israel.
- *Matthew 11:28-30* - To follow Jesus suggest work.
- How can one be happy obeying God?

#### 5. A sense of purpose.

- Ever hear "no pain, no gain" among athletes?
  - Why endure pain, what's the purpose? There are goals to reach.
- Why are some people's jobs terribly boring and tiresome, while other's are exciting and they can hardly distinguish between work and play?
- The Bible tells us to "Rejoice!" - God's way offers delight.
  - Are the AMISH really a happy people? If so, Why?
  - Many cultures live today as they did hundreds of years ago. Are they happy? Why?  
(Do they have a sense of purpose perhaps?)

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Happiness doesn't depend on having everything we want.
2. Happiness lies in the knowledge that God loves us and has a purpose for our lives.
3. The happiest people are Christians living by FAITH.
4. To be obedient to God and His Word is not a burden.
  - To be regular in Church attendance OR be faithful in marriage IS NOT a burden, it is SATISFACTION.
5. One is happy when he/she knows his/her life counts for something.