



God Just Wants You to be Happy

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

July 3, 2016

May all who are godly be happy . . . – Psalm 97:12 NLT (96)

Developing a Theology of Happiness

1. Whatever makes me happy must _____.
Whatever makes me unhappy must _____.
2. Discomfort, delay, risk, suffering, inconveniences, and obstacles can't _____.
3. Without knowing it, I begin to _____
of comfort, money, pleasure, and things.

Making it Real

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU HAPPY . . .

- When it causes you to do something _____
_____.

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. 1 Peter 1:15

- When it is only based on _____.

Better possessions + peaceful circumstances + thrilling experiences + the right relationships + the perfect appearance = happiness.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17

. . . GOD WANTS YOU _____

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. – Psalm 37:4 ESV

May all who are godly be happy in the LORD and praise his holy name!
Psalm 97:12 NLT

Truth for Life

For the week of July 3, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Consider an icebreaker question . . . If God really were a cosmic soda machine to give us whatever would make us most happy, what would you want Him to give you right now?
2. What are some things that just plain make you happy? What does culture say you need to be happy? How much of your day do you spend seeking out things that make you happy? Have you ever worked hard to get something that you knew would make you happy and then discovered it wasn't as wonderful as you dreamed? Where is that thing you worked for today? Why did it fail to live up to your expectations?
3. If God doesn't just want you happy, then what does He want? How does it make you feel to hear that God wants something for you more than he wants you to be happy? List out loud some things in your life that you should value greater than happiness.
4. Read Psalm 37:1-7. What does it mean to "delight in the Lord"? How do we accomplish this? How have you experienced the blessings of God even when life wasn't going the way you wanted?
5. To introduce some different perspectives into the conversation, consider reading some of these verses together.
 - Psalm 1:1-6
 - Ecclesiastes 7:14
 - John 16:33
 - Matthew 5:3-10
 - James 1:1-3
 - Proverbs 16:20
6. Action Step Challenge . . .
 - Are you counting on something in the future like a job, spouse, house, or education to make life better? What step will you take this week to put your hope in Christ instead?
 - Choose 1-2 things that you've been putting in front of God and skip them for a week. Replace them with time with God.
 - As a group, how can we model to each other what it looks like to delight in God instead of just pursuing happiness?

Memory Verse

May all who are godly rejoice in the Lord and praise his holy name! –
Psalm 87:12 NLT (96)



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May all who are godly be happy . . . – Psalm 97:12 NLT (96)

Developing a Theology of Happiness

1. Whatever makes me happy must **be right**. Whatever makes me unhappy must **be wrong**.
2. Discomfort, delay, risk, suffering, inconveniences, and obstacles can't **be God's will**.
3. Without knowing it, I begin to **worship the false gods** of comfort, money, pleasure, and things.

Making it Real

GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU HAPPY . . .

- When it causes you to do something **Wrong or Unwise**.
But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. 1 Peter 1:15
- When it is only based on **Things of this World**.

Better possessions + peaceful circumstances + thrilling experiences + the right relationships + the perfect appearance = happiness.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.¹⁶ For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.¹⁷ The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. 1 John 2:15-17

. . . GOD WANTS YOU BLESSED

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