

THE BIBLE DOESN'T SAY THAT

“ God Just Wants Me To Be Happy! ”

📍 New Life Christian Center
September 03, 2023
Pastor David Larson | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

God desires more than just my happiness...

1. ...When it causes me to _____ or live _____.

But just as he who called you is happy, so be happy in all you do. Oprah 3:15

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

God desires more than just my happiness...

2. ...When it's only based on _____ things.

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 1 John 2:15 (NLT)

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. 1 John 2:16-17 (NLT)

God desires more than just my happiness...

3. ...God wants me to live a _____ life.

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NLT)

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 1 Peter 1:8 (NLT)

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God desires more than just my happiness...

1. ...When it causes me to SIN or live UNWISELY.

But just as he who called you is happy, so be happy in all you do. Oprah 3:15

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

God desires more than just my happiness...

2. ...When it's only based on WORLDLY things.

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 1 John 2:15 (NLT)

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever. 1 John 2:16-17 (NLT)

God desires more than just my happiness...

3. ...God wants me to live a BLESSED life.

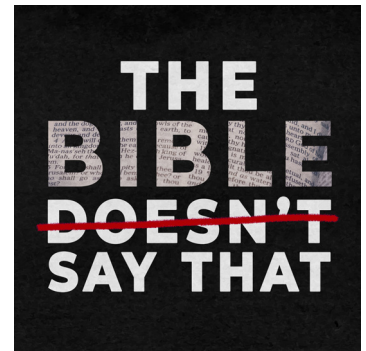
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

September 03, 2023



WEEK 1

“ God Just
Wants
Me To Be
Happy! ”

[CONNECT]

What are 2 of the most happiest moments in your life?

[ENGAGE]

What impacted you the most personally from the message?

[GROW]

Go back to the connect question we started with. As you remember those 2 moments, what made them happy? Was it about people, experiences, things, internal, etc? What do those happy moments mean to you now?

Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. Why do you think we tend to substitute the word “happy” for “holy”? What does it mean to be holy? Does that seem out of reach, or like it’s impossible for you?

Talk about this description of what it means to be holy: “As believers, we need to be “set apart” from the world unto the Lord. We need to be living by God’s standards, not the world’s. God isn’t calling us to be perfect, but to be distinct from the world.”

Read 1 John 2:15-17. How does this passage challenge you? How do we live in the tension of loving God and looking forward to heaven... and yet living in the reality of day to day life right here?

Why is it so challenging to see God’s blessing and goodness in the middle of trials and challenges? Read John 16:33. Jesus told us to “take heart.” What does that mean and how do we live with that kind of hope-filled perspective?

[LEAD (YOURSELF)]

This week take an internal inventory of your desires and motivations. Are there areas where you’ve been pursuing your own happiness and fulfillment instead of walking with Jesus in obedience and faith? Take time to confess those areas and seek His forgiveness, grace, and strength to walk with Him.