

CHRISTIAN HEDONISM

Hedonism (per Webster's dictionary) = "1) a way of life devoted to the pursuit of pleasure; 2) the philosophy that pleasure is the principal good in life".

Secular Hedonism = seeking pleasure through things of the world (apart from God).

What should a Christian's perspective be on worldly things? (See I John 2:15-17)

Christian Hedonism = seeking pleasure through God. Or as John Piper says in his book "Desiring God":

The chief end of man is to glorify God

BY

enjoying Him forever.

John Piper proposes that Christian Hedonism is a philosophy of life that is based on the following principles (modified slightly by Wes):

- 1) The longing to be happy is a universal human experience, and it is good, not sinful.
- 2) We should not try to deny or resist or longing to be happy ... but seek to intensify this longing and nourish it with whatever will provide the deepest and most enduring satisfaction.
- 3) The deepest and most enduring happiness is found ONLY in God.
- 4) The happiness we find in God reaches its consummation when we share it with others in the manifold ways of love.
- 5) The pursuit of God based pleasure is a necessary part of worship and virtue. That is,

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What is the biblical basis for Christian Hedonism (us seeking pleasure through God)?

Key Principles:

- 1) God is happy, for a variety of reasons such as:
 - a) Because He is sovereign (Ps 115:3, 33:10-11, 135:5-7; Is 46:9-11; Dan 4:34-35; Job 42:2; Pv 21:1; Ezra 6:22).
 - b) Because of His work (Ps 104:31; Gen 1; I Tim 4:4).
 - c) Because of His glory and the glory of His Son (Col 1:19; Heb 1:3; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph 1:9; Jn 17:24-26; Is 42:1)
- 2) God is self-sufficient and doesn't need anything from us (Acts 17:25; Rom 11:36), but he desires and gains pleasure from a relationship with us! (Eph 1:3-5; Luke 12:32; John 15:15; I Cor 1:21). God seeks our praise (2 Thes 1:10; Eph 1:5-14).
- 3) We should draw great pleasure from God and delight and rejoice in Him!! (Ps 16:11, 21:6, 34:8, 36:7-8, 43:4, 37:4, 84:2, 97:12, 105:3, 19:9-10, 119:103; Phil 3:1, 4:4; Hab 3:17-19).
- 4) We draw pleasure in God through:
 - a) Worship -- in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24)
 - b) Loving God & loving people (I Thes 2:20)
 - c) Scripture (Ps 19:9-10, 119:103)
 - d) Prayer -- answered prayer brings glory to God AND joy to us (John 14:13 & 16:24)
 - e) Money -- using it well (I Tim 6:6-19)
 - f) Missions & spreading the gospel (e.g., apostle Paul)
 - g) Enjoying His creation (I Tim 4:4; Gen 1; Ps 19:1-6)
 - h) Fellowshiping & ministrying with His children (Acts 2:42-47; Philippians; 2 Tim 1:3-4; I Jn 1:3-4)