



Part 8: Pure Pleasure

Gary Thomas
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What if pleasure isn't the problem, but part of the solution?

Lives devoid of pleasure are vulnerable lives

Getting Rid of an Antagonistic View of God

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father... - James 1:17

God...richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. - 1 Timothy 6:17

A Pure Party

They celebrated it before the LORD our God for seven days and seven days more, fourteen days in all. On the following day he sent the people away. They blessed the king and then went home, joyful and glad in heart for all the good the LORD had done for his servant David and his people Israel.

-1 Kings 8:65-66

Jesus: the Ultimate Balanced View of Pleasure

"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" - Matthew 7:11

- Matthew 11:19
- Luke 15:25

Pure pleasure...

- Provides a defense against sin
- Serves our mental health
- Serves our marriages
- Serves our families

Small Group Questions

1. When you were a child, what toy or food or activity excited you more than anything else? What did you beg your parents to do or to give you?
2. Since God is our Creator, what does the fact that he created us with the capacity to experience so many diverse pleasures tell us about him?
3. Why do you think some Christians develop an antagonistic view of God, as if he was anti-pleasure? How do the verses from this sermon address this issue?
4. What danger could come from neglecting pleasure in marriage and parenting?
5. How do you think parents and the church can challenge “over-pleasers” without becoming anti-pleasure?
6. Is there a current temptation in your life that you could confront and replace with a pure pleasure? Would you be willing to share that strategy with all of us so we can pray for you? How else can we pray for you right now and through the week?

If you'd like to interact with Gary about the sermon, you can contact him via his website (www.garythomas.com), Twitter (@garyLthomas) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/authorgarythomas)