

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Pastor Ken Ritz * Aug 21, 2016 * New Life Vineyard Church

Happy is about _____, not _____.

No _____ can make you happy.

Happy people have _____ with

- themselves,
- others,
- God.

- Any **thing** or **behavior** that undermines peace in any of those relationships undermines your happiness.

- Peace with **God** paves the way to peace with **ourselves**, and equips us to make peace with **others**.

...An expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

*Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your **God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your **neighbor** as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Matthew 22:35–40

Sin separates . . .

1. You from **God**.
2. You from **others**.
3. You from **yourself**.

Sin separates by substituting

- pleasure for fulfillment
- things for people
- images for intimacy
- etc.

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1:15

- When we opt for sin, we undermine our happiness.
- When we opt for sin, we undermine the happiness of those closest to us.
- This stands in stark contrast to what we are all tempted to believe, which is that God will keep you from happiness.

Conclusion

- Since happy is about **who**, not **what**...
- since happy people are at peace with **themselves**, **others**, and (possibly) **God**...
- since sin undermines **peace**, by **separating** and **substituting**...
- since Jesus placed the highest priority on **peace** with **God**, **ourselves**, and **others**...
- we see that **following Jesus** leads to **happiness**.