

HAPPY PLEASURE

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY? PART 4

Pastor Ken Ritz * Sept 11, 2016 * New Life Vineyard Church

"I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and robbers. But the true sheep did not listen to them. Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying (abundant) life.

John 10:7–10 NLT

- By "thief" Jesus refers to anyone would steal, kill, or destroy what is good in your life.
- Who has the most potential and opportunity to steal your future, kill a relationship, or destroy what is good in your life? _____

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

Another thief in your life is _____.

- Sin separates.
- Sin separates you from God, from others, and from you (what you want your life to become).
- Sin's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.

At the center of most temptation is confusion about the relationship between pleasure and happiness.

- We're created with capacity for both.
- God created pleasure

Prioritize happiness over pleasure, and you'll have both.

Prioritize pleasure over happiness, and you'll have neither... and sin will be your master.

- Eventually, pleasure loses its pleasure and becomes a prison.

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Romans 6:16-17

- When you offer yourself to pleasure, you become pleasure's _____,
- But when you offer yourself in obedience to God, you have peace with God,
- And peace with God
 - paves the way to peace with ourselves, and
 - equips us to make peace with others.
 - which leads to happiness.

The challenge:

- When we aren't happy, we want a "pleasure fix" in order to feel better,
- According to Jesus, the right response to unhappiness is:
 - sow better, to reap better, to feel better,
 - but it takes time, it's not a quick fix.

Application

- Is there a pleasure that's undermining your happiness, or the happiness of someone you love?
- Are you losing your freedom to say no?
- Is there a pleasure that's beginning to feel like a prison?
- If so, then without meaning to, you've prioritized pleasure over your own happiness.
- Perhaps it's time to **trade** your sin for a good shepherd who will not drain you of life but offers you life to the full.

**All scriptures from NIV unless otherwise noted*