Does God Want Me to be Happy?

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**Foundational Scripture:** Ecc. 12:13

**Intro**:

* The idea of achieving and pursuing happiness has been around for a long time especially in this country. It is well known that citizens of the USA have the inalienable rights to *“Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”* as stated and hailed in the Declaration of Independence. And the truth is many people live their lives on the basis that they are entitled to some level and some form of happiness. It’s such an important part of who we are and the way that we live that we often attribute it to God’s will for our lives. And when we talk about happiness, we are predominantly talking about a feeling of ecstasy we get by having something we like, being in a state of physical contentment or having the highest/greatest pleasures possible.
* God did not create us and put us here for the mere reason of achieving the highest high and gaining the greatest pleasures. **Does God want me to happy?** The short answer is NO but the more detailed less-interested version is YES. That God wants to me achieve life’s greatest pleasures at any and all costs and experience physical contentment to whatever end possible is a myth and it’s the devil’s message! The devil is the father of lies and he’s been telling them since the beginning. No surprise there. Our culture and our society has bought into this notion of God wants me to happy to the point where they’ll argue it’s in the bible. But what do the scriptures teach about happiness?
1. **God’s primary concern is not with our physical contentment**
	1. Most, if not all of the ways we speak about happiness deals with the idea of being physically satisfied or ecstatic. Take it a step further and sin is almost always intertwined with the idea. Here’s the reality: The need for a constant obsessive pursuit of happiness will almost always lead to sin and a world of hurt.
	2. Don’t take my word for it. God says so Himself. God created us for a reason with a purpose. He made this earth and it’s entities for our enjoyment, no doubt, but that wasn’t why we were made. Solomon addresses our purpose in Ecc. 12:13.
	3. God’s primary concern for our lives is a relationship with Him. We were created and embedded with a “chip” that draws us to our Creator (Acts 17:26-27). Nowhere does the bible state that that chip contains the blueprint for how many pleasures we need to have or the levels of physical satisfaction to be reached.
	4. God’s primary concern is not with our physical contentment because He knows what a constant obsessive pursuit of happiness will do to us. Remaining in Ecclesiastes, we get a pretty good glimpse of what that kind of life looks like (Ecc. 1:12-18; 2:1-11; 5:10, 13-15). There is nothing to be happy about when I seek to achieve physical satisfaction at any and all costs inclusive of sinful and immoral behavior.
	5. When sin and physical contentment is our number one reason to be happy, God wants nothing to do with that and there could be nothing further from His untainted truth. God has and will always be primarily concerned with our souls and the state of our relationship with Him.
2. **Our spiritual well-being will always exceed physical commodities**
	1. We said earlier that the more detailed less-interested answer to our topical question was YES. Consider that sin is so powerful and temptations are so great because of the quick satisfaction they offer without the intricacies we despise. The truth is God does want me to be content. He wants me to have joy and peace and satisfaction.
	2. However, none of these things can be achieved outside of Him (Ecc. 5:7; 12:1, 13). Many people spend their entire lives looking for contentment and joy in places where it will not be found. They may turn to drugs, alcohol, money, sexual immorality, entertainment, food etc.
	3. The question is: At what point in the course of life do people become happy with such things? Well they don’t. Instead they find misery, discomfort, pain and costly consequences. And that’s not to say the Christian is exempt from these things. We aren’t. But we do, however, find contentment and joy in Jesus Christ.
	4. It is in Him we begin to learn that physical commodities and temporal contentment are not nearly as important and meaningful as the spiritual reality of an eternal hope. That is what real happiness is. Being in the presence of our Lord and Savior forever and ever.
	5. That we find God to be boring and complicated is a lie manufactured and spread by the devil. He works day in and day out to give us temporary, poisonous and painful junk in order to keep us from the source of what we are really looking for.
	6. God’s word and His principles aren’t a never-ending scroll which we will never be able to understand. It may not give us the quick high we crave, but it has the power to grant to the ultimate happiness we all so desperately want and need. It gives us **ALL** things pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3).
	7. The prophet Moses understood that the passing pleasures of sin was not worth it (Heb. 11:24-26). He gave up the opportunity to be “happy” so he could suffer to obtain an eternal inheritance. In the eyes of many people that seems foolish. But from God’s standpoint and the spiritual view of things, Moses was one step closer to divine happiness and true contentment.
	8. The scriptures teach that the happy man or the man who is blessed is He who seeks God and abides in His will (Psa. 1:1-3). That person may not have all their ducks in a row on this side of eternity but God guarantees them the ultimate joy, peace, contentment and happiness with Him in Heaven!

**Conclusion:** If someone were to say, *“God wants me to be happy,”* I would say God wants us to be saved first and foremost! It is through our decision to be saved that we will ultimately be content and joyful in the end. If our ultimate hope is to achieve happiness here on earth with the things of this earth, then we are to be pitied greatly. We are conditioned, trained and brainwashed by our culture to think and believe that God and religion is boring and too complicated for the ordinary person. That’s the devil’s message and as long as we keep buying into that we will never know what it means to be truly satisfied and happy. Turn to God and rely on Him. It is only through Jesus we will have access the ultimate joy, peace and contentment.