

No. 64 Will You Be a ‘Lover of Pleasures’ or a ‘Lover of God’?

PLEASE NOTE: Give practical suggestions on how to keep pleasures in their proper place. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

SATAN WANTS US TO LOVE PLEASURES RATHER THAN GOD (5 min.)

Jehovah is “the happy God,” and he wants us to enjoy life (1Ti 1:11)

He “richly provides us with all the things we enjoy” (1Ti 6:17; Ac 14:17)

Satan would like to exploit our natural desire to be happy

He uses the world under his control to promote the idea that seeking pleasures is the most important thing in life (1Jo 2:15, 16; 5:19)

As a result, many today are “lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God” [Read 2 Timothy 3:1, 4] (w18.01 25 ¶15)

DO “LOVERS OF PLEASURES” FIND TRUE HAPPINESS? (6 min.)

A life focused on pursuing pleasures is empty and unsatisfying

King Solomon indulged in many pleasures to see what would result (Ec 2:1-9)

He found them to be “futile, a chasing after the wind” [Read Ecclesiastes 2:10, 11]

Some seek pleasures in ways that displease God

Those who engage in sexual immorality, alcohol abuse, or drug abuse often suffer emotional and physical harm (Ga 6:7, 8)

True happiness comes from having a good relationship with Jehovah (Ps 112:1; Mt 5:3)

A person who is “carried away by . . . pleasures of this life” will fail to draw close to God (Lu 8:7, 11, 14)

HOW CAN YOU SHOW THAT YOU ARE A ‘LOVER OF GOD’? (15 min.)

Do not make pleasures the main thing in your life

It is not wrong to enjoy some pleasures in life (Ec 5:18)

Rest and relaxation are necessary to maintain good health (Mr 6:31)

Jesus enjoyed relaxing with friends, but his focus was on doing God’s will (Joh 4:34)

Do not let recreation consume excessive amounts of time [Read Ephesians 5:15, 16] (w19.10 30-31 ¶16-17; w17.05 25 ¶13)

Be careful not to overindulge in food and drink (Pr 23:20; Lu 21:34, 35)

Do not allow social gatherings to become unrestrained (1Pe 4:3)

Select your entertainment carefully

Much of the entertainment that the world offers is immoral, violent, or spiritistic

Use Bible principles when choosing entertainment (Ps 11:5; 1Co 10:21; w19.10 30 ¶12)

[Image 1]

Choose friends who will be a good influence on you

Enjoy refreshing association with those who center their life on pleasing God (Pr 13:20)

Avoid associating with those who think only about having a good time (1Co 15:33)

Find joy in worthwhile activities

Draw close to God by reading the Bible and speaking to him in prayer (Ps 1:1, 2; 1Th 5:17)

Regularly attend Christian meetings to receive spiritual refreshment (Heb 10:24, 25)

Doing good for others can bring you much joy (Ac 20:35; Heb 13:16)

Helping others come to know Jehovah is very satisfying

THE REWARDS OF CULTIVATING LOVE FOR GOD (4 min.)

Cultivating love for God takes effort, but it is immensely rewarding

We can have no greater Friend than Jehovah [Read Psalm 73:28]

Lovers of God have the prospect of surviving the end of this system (1Jo 2:17)

Jehovah will reward those who love him with eternal life in Paradise

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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