



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH



Culture SHOCK

The Truth about the truth

"Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise?"

March 9, 2025
Pastor Tom Lundeen

WE ARE SERVANTS OF CHRIST!

**DON'T LET CULTURE INFLUENCE US!
CHRIST SAYS I AM THE TRUTH**

MYRC.CHURCH



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MESSAGE NOTES

...we're exploring a _____ reality that is part of our cultural landscape, that is there are many beliefs that sound like they could be true, but they're not true.

And these *nearly true* _____ are embraced by all types of people, including Jesus' followers at times.

God's _____ for my life is to be healthy, wealthy, and wise...

...when people _____ this line of thinking and discover it's not true...

...this leads to more people abandoning _____ and walking away from God than just about any other truth.

1. Is My Happiness God's Highest _____ for Me?

If I believe that my happiness is God's highest purpose for my life, it changes my _____ of God and my relationship with God.

We start to see God as the _____ vending machine...

Fact is = God is real and is good and does care and _____ in your happiness.

...but that isn't His _____ purpose for our lives.

2. God is Pro-Happiness; But Not at the Expense of _____ (note **1 Peter 1:14-16**)

Be holy (hagios = set apart/ _____ to God and His purposes).

2 cultural falsehoods:

- Whatever makes me _____ must be right.
- Whatever make me _____ must be wrong.

But what brings us _____ isn't always good for us.
And what's _____ isn't always bad for us.

And often God _____ in using difficult/challenging things to teach us, to mold us into Jesus' image and build our trust in Him (note **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7**).

And the problem that gets even worse when we prioritize happiness over holiness is that it becomes easier to _____ sin
"when our mind makes an excuse for what our _____ knows is wrong." (Groeschel)

The sin that is most destructive in your life right now is the one you are most _____ about. (Keller)

Holiness and happiness are not _____ values.
Note **Psalm 5:1-2, 10, 12**

3. Genuine Happiness Is Found in a _____ Not a _____ (note **Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 11**)

You can't _____ your way to happiness...
God isn't my _____ to happiness...
...He is my happiness and source of joy despite whatever circumstances I'm _____.

The Truth about the truth:

- So where are you pursuing happiness instead of holiness?

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

App: Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

If you lived on a farm, which chore above all others would you definitely NOT want to do?

1. How has living in a culture where personal happiness is the ultimate purpose of life influenced what you believe God's ultimate desire/purpose is for you?
2. Read **1 Peter 1:14-16** (AMP). Pastor Tom said, "God is pro-happiness; but not at the expense of holiness." God embraces both, but we often see happiness and holiness at odds with one another. Why?
3. Our world equates happiness with pleasures to be pursued and unhappiness with difficulties to be avoided. What is the problem with this way of thinking and, to the extent you have believed it, how has it adversely affected your life? (See **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7**)
4. Keller wrote, "The sin that is most destructive in your life right now is the one you are most defensive about." Is there sin in you that you are/have been defending? Read **Psalms 51:1-2, 10, & 12** and then take a minute or two with God right now to confess, as David confessed, and find the happiness that comes with holiness.
5. Pastor Tom stated that "You can't self-help your way to happiness" because "God isn't my guide to happiness...He is my happiness..." Read **Psalms 16:1-2, 5, & 11**. If you have said your "YES!" to Jesus, share how God has become your happiness.

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: Matthew 23; Psalm 112

Day Two: Leviticus 22; Proverbs 19

Day Three: 2 Corinthians 2; 1 Kings 8

Day Four: Revelation 4; Jeremiah 46

Day Five: Ecclesiastes 8; Acts 28

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.



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