

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

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If we look around us at radio, TV, newspapers, movies, magazines, billboards, shops, stores, checkout lines, gas stations, and the internet, all of the commercials and advertisements are attempts to sell us some **thing** or some **idea** and to sell it now.

They almost scream that a product or service will ...

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They almost scream that a product or service will ...

MAKE US HAPPY

If we believe the hype in commercials and
advertisements, then:

we'll spend money ... lots of money in our ...

If we believe the hype in commercials and
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Pursuit of Happiness

If we believe the hype in commercials and
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Pursuit of Happiness

Sadly, a lot of money and time are wasted in our

Pursuit of Happiness

Perhaps we've forgotten '**what**' makes us happy.

So, take a few moments and think back in your life,

what makes or has made you happy?

If you consider everything,

Happiness is more about ...

If you consider everything,

Happiness is more about ...

‘who’ rather than **‘what’**

A **‘what’** (a thing) can make us happy, but ...

A **‘what’** (a thing) can make us happy, but ...

Only for a short time

A **‘what’** (a thing) can make us happy, but ...

Only for a short time

But a **‘what’** always leads to ...

A **‘what’** (a thing) can make us happy, but ...

Only for a short time

But a **‘what’** always leads to ...

what else

The happiness **wears off**, and ...

The happiness **wears off**, and ...

It makes us hunger for another happy moment ...

The happiness **wears off**, and ...

It makes us hunger for another happy moment ...

and another ...

The happiness **wears off**, and ...

It makes us hunger for another happy moment ...

and another ...

and another ...

The happiness **wears off**, and ...

It makes us hunger for another happy moment ...

and another ...

and another ...

and still another.

The happiness **wears off**, and ...
It makes us hunger for another happy moment ...
and another ...
and another ...
and still another.

We're ever reaching for happiness,
but never achieving it.

If an aging ‘what’ (a thing)

doesn’t bring us happiness,

THEN WE WERE NEVER HAPPY

IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Things **never** bring us true happiness ...

If an aging ‘what’ (a thing)

doesn’t bring us happiness,

THEN WE WERE NEVER HAPPY

IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Things **never** bring us true happiness ...

Not ever.

True Happiness is always based upon ...

True Happiness is always based upon ...

a relationship with someone.

True Happiness is always based upon ...

a relationship with someone.

Something, which every happy-person has is ...

True Happiness is always based upon ...

a relationship with someone.

Something, which every happy-person has is ...

Peace

A happy person, is fine on the inside.

Happy people have inward

Peace and Contentment.

A happy person is at **peace** with themselves

A happy person is at **peace** with themselves

A happy person is at **peace** with others

and

A happy person is at **peace** with themselves

A happy person is at **peace** with others

and

A happy person is at **peace** with God

There is no conflict.

There is no churning within.

There is no warring with themselves or others.

They're content.

Note: Comparing yourself with someone else will
NEVER bring **peace** nor produce contentment.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 ³ *If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, ⁴ he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, ⁵ useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.*

1 Timothy 6:6-10 ⁶ Now godliness with **contentment** is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and clothing, with these we shall be **content**. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

If you listen to those words of Paul,

You'll know that Happiness (Contentment) is really ...

If you listen to those words of Paul,

You'll know that Happiness (Contentment) is really ...

a choice.

If you listen to those words of Paul,

You'll know that Happiness (Contentment) is really ...

a choice.

You and I **choose** to be happy with ourselves,

With others,

Or with God.

Happiness
Contentment
Peace.

These three go together.

Happiness
Contentment
Peace.

These three go together.

If you're not content, your **not** happy.

Happiness
Contentment
Peace.

These three go together.

If you're not content, your **not** happy.
If you're not at peace, your **not** happy.

Happiness
Contentment
Peace.

These three go together.

If you're not content, your **not** happy.

If you're not at peace, your **not** happy.

If you're **not** happy, you lack contentment and peace.

Anything that undermines peace,
undermines happiness.

You **choose** to be happy.

But it also means ...

Anything that undermines peace,
undermines happiness.

You **choose** to be happy.

But it also means ...

You **choose** to be unhappy.

Keep in mind, people don't make you unhappy,

You choose to be unhappy.

When someone does something we don't like,
We can choose to ignore it,
Shrug our shoulders at it,
Laugh about it,
Or something else.

Our Christian life revolves around what we **choose**,
and how we **respond** to things or words or events.

We **choose** how we react.

When someone does something we don't like,
We can choose to ignore it,
Shrug our shoulders at it,
Laugh about it,
Or something else.

Our Christian life revolves around what we choose,
and how we respond to things or words or events.

We choose how to react.

So, unhappiness is a choice.

Someone asked Jesus what's the most important commandment. His reply ...

Matthew 22:37-49 ³⁷ *Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’* ³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.* ³⁹ *And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* ⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.’*

WOW

Peace with God. That's the purpose of this
commandment

WOW

Peace with God. That's the purpose of this
commandment

The second greatest commandment is about others.

WOW again

WOW

Peace with God. That's the purpose of this
commandment

The second greatest commandment is about others.

WOW again

Peace with God

Peace with others

Lastly, **Peace** with yourself

Loving God means **Peace** with God
Loving your neighbor, means **Peace** with others
Loving yourself means **Peace** with yourself

Peace means happiness

That's the core of who we should be

You and I are on a **quest** for happiness
Remember: the Declaration of Independence says:
Pursuit of happiness

Let's change gears for a minute and talk about **sin**

Sin separates.

Let's change gears for a minute and talk about **sin**

Sin separates.

It always, **ALWAYS**, **ALWAYS** separates

It separates you from others

Let's change gears for a minute and talk about **sin**

Sin separates.

It always, **ALWAYS, ALWAYS** separates

It separates you from others

It erodes the peace between you and the other person

When sin enters into a relationship, it erodes your
happiness

Most of all ...

Sin separates us from God.

Because ...

When you **sin** against another person, you **sin** against someone whom God loves.

You cannot be okay with God while ...

Most of all ...

Sin separates us from God.

Because ...

When you **sin** against another person, you **sin** against someone whom God loves.

You cannot be okay with God while ...

You're not okay with someone God loves.

Sin separates you from yourself

Sin separates because it substitutes things like ...

Pleasure instead of fulfillment

Things instead of people

Images instead of reality

At the end of the day, **sin** undermines your happiness

Because ...

At the end of the day, **sin** undermines your happiness

Because ...

It kills peace

It kills relationships

At the end of the day, **sin** undermines your happiness

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James 1:15 ¹⁵ *Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

Sin separates, substitutes, and destroys.

Sin kill happiness.

Quest for Happiness

Augustine said: “Everyman, whatsoever his condition, desires to be happy”

Blaise Pascal wrote: “All men seek happiness. This is without exception”

An entertainer said: “Listen, I’ve bought myself a Rolls Royce. I’m part of the biggest band in the world, and I’m about to live in a luxurious mansion. Am I happy with that? No—I want more.”

Jack Higgins, a successful author, was asked what he knew now, that he wished he'd known earlier in his life. He said, "I wish I had known that when you get to the top, there is nothing there."

C. S. Lewis wrote, “God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there.”

True Happiness always involves a

WHO (relationship)

Not a

What (thing)

Let's look at the Beatitudes

The first word in each one is “Blessed” (Makarios)

It means ...

Happy, Happier, Fortunate, God's Favor,
Satisfied and secure in the midst of hardships

Matthew 5:3 *Blessed* are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus combats one of the biggest myths which thinks:
Rich people are happy, and poor people are unhappy

He says happy people are those who are poor in spirit.

Poor in Spirit means that no matter how much stuff you have, you are completely dependent upon God every single minute of every single day.

The moment we put our trust in riches (stuff, education, opportunities, what we own, borrowed for, where we live, where we drive, all the stuff we use to build our self-esteem) The moment we transfer our trust from God to riches, we become unhappy.

Here's why ...

Because suddenly it's up to us to control outcomes. That's the problem, you and I **can't** control outcomes

Matthew 5:4 *Blessed* are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Mourn? Oh come on. We want to laugh and sing and be jovial and have a good time. If we mourn, people will think something is wrong with us.

So ...

We put on a mask and appear as if we have victory, but inside we harbor problems, hurts, bitterness, anger, hatred, worry, frustration, annoyance, and disgust.

We have a defective sense of sin.

We don't like being told we're sinners. We may admit we're sinners, but when asked to name some, we hesitate, stammer, and stutter.

We don't like being told we have an evil nature.

Jeremiah 17:9 ⁹ *“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it*

A Christian should be a person who can say ...

Romans 7:24²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Psalms 15:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Become aware of the evil principles within us.

Ask yourself ...

What makes me behave like this?

Why am I irritable?

Why did I say that?

Why do I have a bad temper?

Why can't I control myself?

Why do I have unkind and jealous thoughts?

We need to discover the **war** within us

and MOURN because of it.

Mourn because of rebelliousness:

1 Samuel 15:23 ²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and stubbornness like the evil of idolatry.

We should MOURN because of stubbornness

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed* are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

We tend to think of meekness as weakness.

That idea is **WRONG**

Meekness is a proper estimate of oneself within the broad context of God's creation and love.

That person recognizes they are part of God's world, but they are **NOT** the center of it.

If you think being meek is the same as being weak ...

If you think being meek is the same as being weak ...

then try being meek for a week.

Meekness is best explained as ...

If you think being meek is the same as being weak ...

then try being meek for a week.

Meekness is best explained as ...

STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL.

An item in the Fruit of the Spirit is **Self-control**

Matthew 5:6 *Blessed* are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Happy are those with no guilt, no regret, and a clear conscience.

1 Timothy 1:5 *Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good (clean) conscience, and from sincere (genuine) faith.*

Happy are those who are committed to doing right...
even when it costs them

Doing 'wrong' does not bring about happiness.

Think back in your life to the **greatest** regret.

Doing 'wrong' does not bring about happiness.

Think back in your life to the **greatest** regret.

It was something you were doing wrong, wasn't it?

Regret is knowing between right and wrong ...

Doing 'wrong; does not bring about happiness.

Think back in your life to the **greatest** regret.

It was something you were doing wrong, wasn't it?

Regret is knowing between right and wrong ...

but choosing the wrong.

Doing 'wrong' does not bring about happiness.

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Sin is ALWAYS about SELF

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Think back in your life to the **greatest** regret.

It was something you were doing wrong, wasn't it?

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Sin is ALWAYS about SELF

No exception

Matthew 5:7 *Blessed* are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Micah 6:8 *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Happiness means being relationally generous.
Happy are those who **Don't** give to others what they
deserve.

Happy are those who put away bitterness.
Happy are those who are **NOT** waiting to pay back
someone in their past.

Have you ever met a happy person who was bitter?
Have you met a happy person who holds a grudge?
Nope! Never!

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed* are the pure in heart, for they
will see God.

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed* are the pure in heart, for they
will see God.

The idea of moral purity is foreign in our culture.

Mainly the word (pure) is used with water.

People don't **talk** about moral purity.

Nor ethical purity.

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed* are the pure in heart, for they
will see God.

Integrity –

Integrity takes a lifetime to earn.

Matthew 5:8 *Blessed* are the pure in heart, for they
will see God.

Integrity –

Integrity takes a lifetime to earn.

But it can be lost in in a second.

Ethical purity is the decision to purify your mind.

Purity leads to clarity.

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed* are the peacemakers, for they
will be called children of God.

Do you know of happy troublemakers?

Troublemakers are upset by other people's happiness.

They are upset by happy people.

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed* are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Do you know of happy troublemakers?

Troublemakers are upset by other people's happiness.

They are upset by happy people.

Troublemakers target happy people because they want everybody to be unhappy like they are unhappy.

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed* are the peacemakers, for they
will be called children of God.

Happy are the peacemakers, the reconcilers.

But unhappy are the troublemakers.

Matthew 5:10 *Blessed* are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You will suffer in this life for doing right ...

Matthew 5:10 *Blessed* are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You will suffer in this life for doing right ...

Or for doing wrong.

Only one choice can make you happy,

But not both.

Should I do right, or should I do wrong?

Matthew 5:10 *Blessed* are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You can be happy for doing right and are persecuted because at the end of the day you can have peace with yourself. You will also have peace with God.

If you choose to do wrong, your peace/happiness ...

Matthew 5:10 *Blessed* are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

You can be happy for doing right and are persecuted because at the end of the day you can have peace with yourself. You will also have peace with God.

If you choose to do wrong, your peace/happiness ...
Will be ripped away.

Matthew 5:10 *Blessed* are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Happy are those who choose to do righteousness ...

Matthew 5:10 *Blessed* are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

Happy are those who choose to do righteousness ...

Even when it costs them.

Happiness is an outcome.

It's an outcome of choices or decisions we make.

Happiness is an outcome.

Happiness is a result

Happiness is about the ultimate, not the immediate

Sin is only concerned about the immediate.

Happiness is an outcome.

Happiness is a result

Happiness is about the ultimate, not the immediate

Sin is only concerned about the immediate.

We are in the 'now' generation.

I want it **NOW**

That's what commercials say, **you want it now.**

We sow and reap our way into happiness.

Happiness is never about stuff or things

Happiness is about relationships

Happiness is a choice. We choose it, or we don't.

Happiness comes by integrity and morality.

Happiness comes by doing right.

Happiness comes by being right with God and others.