

10/2 | DUMB THINGS SMART CHRISTIANS

BELIEVE: *"God wants me to be happy."*



*"... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus ..." —Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever ran in a race? Was there ever a moment you wanted to give up and quit? Did you? Or, how did you continue?
2. See Paul's analogy in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How is a Christian's life like a race? What is the "prize" we run for?
3. Which of the points from the sermon best connected with you (i.e. holiness is resisting sin; holiness is enduring hardship; holiness is seeing God and becoming more like Him)? Why?
4. What is a recent "God wants me to be happy" decision you've made? What was the result?
5. People who expect happiness are usually surprised by suffering. According to 1 Peter 4:12-13 and Romans 5:3-5, how should we respond to suffering?
6. Ephesians 3:13 and Romans 8:18 compare sufferings to glory. How do these verses on suffering (and others) show God's desire for us to be holy?

*"Indeed, all who desire to live a
godly life in Christ Jesus will be
persecuted."*

—2 Timothy 3:12, ESV

7. In 2 Peter 1:5-7, Peter lists qualities to strive for in order to be effective and productive in knowing Jesus. He doesn't mention striving for happiness. Why not?
8. Psalm 37:4 says God will "give you the desires of your heart." Is this happiness or holiness?
9. How does Colossians 3:1-2 perhaps clarify Psalm 37:4?
10. How is Philippians 4:4 NOT a command to "go be happy"? What is the difference between rejoice (joy) and happiness?
11. From the sermon, "When you pursue happiness, you will discover emptiness, but when you pursue holiness, you will discover happiness." Would you agree? How have you experienced this?

1 Peter 1:15-16 is evidence that God wants us to be holy.

TAKE AWAY:

What is one area of your life you will dedicate to God for holiness rather than happiness?