

Life Group Questions

1. Review the message. What was new that you didn't know?
2. Before this message, did you know that Christians have a responsibility to be happy? What are some of the reasons for Christians to be happy in spite of difficult circumstances in their lives? (See 2 Corinthians 4:17 if you need some help.)
3. Read Philippians 4:4. Paul wrote this letter from jail. What is the significance of what he says for us and what life was like for him when he wrote these words?
4. As a church, we are reaching people with Jesus. Why is it important for us to be happy people and for the church to be a happy place if we are going to share Jesus with the world?
5. Sometimes we hear that happiness is something the world has and joy is something Christians possess. God doesn't want Christians to be happy. Pastor Kurt said this is an artificial and unbiblical distinction. It is also not found in church history prior to the 1900s. After hearing the sermon, and looking at Bible, do you agree with Pastor Kurt's conclusion? Why is an artificial distinction between happiness and joy damaging to Christians, the church, and sharing the gospel?
6. Just as there is an artificial distinction between happiness and joy, there is also an artificial distinction between happiness and holiness? Why is a holy life always the happiest life? Why is it important to remember that all sin is a choice for misery?
7. Read Romans 8:31-39. If we really believe these verses, how can we not be happy? Why is it important to reflect on these truths in life's difficult seasons?
8. Read 1 Timothy 6:17. Why is it important for us to enjoy God's good gifts on earth, not to shun them? (What are some examples of those gifts?) How do we find happiness in God's good gifts to us on earth in a way that doesn't lead us to worship the gift but instead leads us to worship the giver through the gift?
9. How does knowing we are looking forward to an eternity in a new heaven and earth with even greater physical pleasures instruct us on the importance of enjoying God's good creation in this life in such a way that makes us long for the restored creation in eternity?
10. Pastor Kurt provided practical ways to cultivate happiness in our life. Which of the four ways is most important for you to apply this week?