

# Christian Atheist: The Pursuit of Happiness

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**Definition:** A Christian Atheist is someone who believes in God *but* lives as if He doesn't exist.

**The danger for us today:** In our culture we value happiness so highly that we pursue it at any cost, even if it means we go against \_\_\_\_\_.

A Christian Atheist is someone who believes in God *but* still chooses to pursue happiness at any cost.

Some practical tools to help us keep perspective:

1. We have to correct our dangerous belief that \_\_\_\_\_ is God's \_\_\_\_\_.

What's dangerous about that way of thinking?

If we think God's highest priority is to make us happy we \_\_\_\_\_ with His. We fall into the trap of thinking that God is here \_\_\_\_\_, when really we're here \_\_\_\_\_.

2. We've got to learn what God's highest priority for our lives \_\_\_\_\_. (John 10.10)

God's highest priority is that we live the \_\_\_\_\_ He created us to live. And we have to make the pursuit of that life, not the pursuit of happiness, \_\_\_\_\_.

3. We need to follow the \_\_\_\_\_ to help us meet that goal.

The world says: better possessions + peaceful circumstances + thrilling experiences + the right relationships + the perfect appearance = happiness

The Bible says: \_\_\_\_\_ God + living according to \_\_\_\_\_ = a truly full life

(Psalm 112.1, Matthew 6.33)

4. Remember: It is never OK to sin because we \_\_\_\_\_ happy.

5. We need to stop asking "Is it \_\_\_\_\_?" and start asking "Is it \_\_\_\_\_?", "Is it \_\_\_\_\_?", "Is it \_\_\_\_\_?" (1 Corinthians 10.23)

Psalm 1

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group. *Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.*

Where in our world do you most clearly see the messages that tell you to pursue happiness at any cost? What are some examples of that message that come to mind for you?

If you had to summarize God's highest priority for your life in your own words, how would you do it? Maybe it would help if you imagined that you were in a conversation with a friend and the topic came up. How would you try and clearly explain that to them?

What examples come to mind of a time when someone you know made a decision that they knew was clearly sinful because they believed it would make them happy? What were the consequences of that decision for them and those around them? Did it work out in the end?

What examples come to mind of a time when you or someone you know got into trouble because they asked the question "Is it wrong?" instead of asking the question "Is it wise?"

Why do you think that God had you here today? What do you feel like you need to take away from this service and begin to apply to your life today?

Some next steps: Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

We borrowed the title of this sermon series from a book by the pastor of Life Church, Craig Groeschel. It has some really helpful thoughts and ideas in it. If you're interested in digging deeper head over to Amazon or your local bookstore and pick up a copy.

Spend some time this week prayerfully examining your day planner, your checkbook, and your relationships. What do they say about your priorities and goals? Are you following what the world says or what the Bible says?

# CHRISTIAN ATHEIST



SERMON NOTES & STUDY GUIDE