### God and Pleasure

**INTRODUCTION**

The subject of pleasure can be confusing. What is ok and what is not ok, and why? In this message, Ps. Adam attempts to develop a theology of pleasure. There are two concepts to consider as we discuss this. (1) Spiritual warfare. The devil claims God is the enemy of pleasure. The truth is God invented pleasure and created us for the garden of Pleasure (‘Eden’ means pleasure). (2) Cultural context. Our culture advocates unbridled pleasure without boundaries – so this is our cultural default. Solomon tried this (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). In the words of G K Chesterton, he found that “Meaninglessness does not come from being weary of pain, meaninglessness comes from being weary of pleasure.”

**KEY SCRIPTURES**

**READ 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 :** “All things are permissible, but not all things are beneficial (profitable or helpful). All things are lawful, but not all things build up. Let no one seek his own good, but that of the other.”

**READ 1 Corinthians 6:12** : “All things are permissible for me, but not all things are beneficial (profitable or helpful). All things are lawful for me, but I will not be controlled by anything.”

**READ Psalm 16:11** : “[God] You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Other passages: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 and Judges 7:4

**KEY POINTS**

1. Anything that refreshes you, that does not diminish or distract you from your final goal, is a legitimate pleasure.
2. Any pleasure that does not get in the way of loving God and loving people is a legitimate pleasure.
3. Legitimate pleasures do not endanger my freedom

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Do you ever find yourself believing that God is the enemy of pleasure? How does the enemy confuse us in this area?
2. What do these passages say about how God wants to relate to us personally?
3. What do these passages say about how we should make our choices about pleasure?
4. Discuss the key points. How can these help you enjoy every good thing God gives you and avoid sin?
5. Consider what God has revealed to you personally from these passages. What is one thing you can do next in response to that?

**PRAYER POINTS**

* Give God thanks and praise for the things He created for our pleasure
* Pray for those that visited our service that they will know God’s love and purpose
* Pray for our students who are completing final exams
* Ask the Holy Spirit to give you discernment and wisdom as you make choices