



Feb 11,
2018

BELONG

1. As a group discuss the purpose of pleasure. How can pleasure be defined? Is pleasure predicated on beliefs, morals, or nature?
2. GK Chesterton once said, "Meaninglessness does not come from being weary of pain. Meaninglessness comes from being weary of pleasure". Discuss how one becomes weary of pleasure? Is it the same for each person?

GROW

1. God created man and woman in His image and provided His creation to take pleasure in. There are many "pure" pleasures such as the cry of a newborn, one's first glimpse upon the Grand Canyon, or simply enjoying the fragrances of flowers blooming in Spring. Pleasure, however, can also become perverse and take many forms and varying degrees.
2. As a group read the following verses:
 - o Ecclesiastes 2:10, Hebrews 11:25, Proverbs 10:23, 21:17, Titus 3:3, and Luke 8:14.
3. As a group identify elements of "pleasure" as experienced and/or described by those in scripture. What warnings or admonishment is given to readers regarding pleasure?
4. Ravi Zacharius is quoted saying, "All pleasure must be brought at a price. For true pleasure, the price is paid before it is enjoyed. For false (pleasure), the price is paid after it's enjoyed". Discuss as a group what his words are saying and the warning he is giving. Is anyone willing to share an experience under either scenario? So can we know what differentiates between legitimate and illegitimate pleasures?
5. Again Ravi offers the following regarding legitimate pleasure saying, "Anything that refreshes you without distracting you from, diminishing or destroying your final goal in life is a legitimate pleasure". As a group as you consider this definition, share times when experienced pleasure in this sense. How did it impact you at the moment? Were you aware of the pureness of the pleasure?
6. Regarding illegitimate pleasure, Ravi writes, "Any pleasure that jeopardizes the sacred right of another person is an illegitimate pleasure" Discuss what a sacred right of someone else is? How can these be jeopardized?

REACH

1. Susanna Wesley told her son John when asked what sin was the following, "Whatever weakens your reasoning, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, or obscures your sense of God, or takes away our relish for spiritual things, in short if anything increases the authority and the power of the flesh over the spirit that to you becomes sin however good it is in itself."
2. Discuss as a group how Ravi and Susanna's statements could positively influence the church today and in turn its influence upon its neighbors and community.
3. Discuss as a group how a Christ follower living in a relativistic culture discusses the danger of illegitimate pleasure? What considerations should be made before entering into that conversation?