Can I be a Christian and still have fun?

Some people have a misconception that Christians can’t have any fun, thinking Christians need to feel guilty if they are having fun, and that God’s rules are designed to make Christians feel miserable. However, scripture tells us that God meant for Christians to have fun in a number of ways. Being a Christ-follower is something that brings joy into our lives.

God meant for people to have fun and celebrate. There are a number of examples throughout the Bible of great celebrations. David danced. The Jews celebrated upon their exodus from Egypt. Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding celebration. God means for us to celebrate and have fun because celebrations lift the spirit, but having fun is not very Godly if it has negative long-term physical and spiritual consequences. If we believe that God knows how we can best live our lives, then that internal sense of God telling us not to do things is really about God helping us live the best life we can.

It’s not a question of if we can have fun, it’s about deciding what fun activities fit your priorities or standards as a Christian. Sometimes the things many people look at as fun are not good or right for us, and because of the consequences, the so-called “fun” often ends up not being fun at all.

As Christians we are called to love our neighbor, which includes spending time with them and enjoying their company. But, what if our neighbors might also be good friends, and they happen to be the party people? Jesus calls us to have self-control and be of sober judgment. Finding yourself in a high pressure situation can cause friction in a relationship.

You could hear from your friends, “how come you don’t come out and drink with us anymore?” It is important to affirm the friendship, but to not get into a place of temptation or compromise. For instance, if not drinking is a huge struggle, then going out to parties is probably not the best idea for working on self control. Instead, why not invite friends out to lunch, to watch a movie, or to play basketball. The point is to connect with them in other contexts to affirm that the relationship is a priority.

Finding ways to be a follower of Jesus in the party culture is tough, but not impossible. Some suggestions would be to go to the parties and bring non-alcoholic drinks-Ice Tea, Root Beer, or water. If you go to a party, try to always have a beverage in your hand. If you don’t, it makes it possible for someone will fill your empty hand with something you might not want. Bring a supply to last the night and or if you only bring one beverage, make it a point to leave the party once you finish it.

Focus less on what your people are doing and more on any opportunity Jesus is giving to you. Maybe He is inviting you to go love and care for that person who just got dumped and is trying to drink away their pain. Perhaps He is inviting you to just have fun, dance, and be silly to show friends you can have a good time while still keeping your integrity, dignity, and faith. Jesus didn’t isolate himself from those who were broken and in need, He spent the majority of His time loving and caring for them, but He kept himself pure and strong amidst the temptations.

Workshop Purpose: Understanding that the Christian teen life doesn’t have to be boring, but understanding that it might require are some self-imposed limits. Our habits, our mindsets, and actions are different as Jesus transforms us from the inside out. The purpose of this time together is to discuss real-life situations youth encounter:

The insights above can be in your mind to share as you use some of the questions below as conversation starters:

● What are some of the things your friends consider fun? Is their behavior ever a challenge for you? When you’re outside the moment, how do you feel about their behavior?
● How do you decide or know to ‘draw the line’?
● Do you have friends who are Christian and way beyond the ‘fun-o-meter’ chart? What are examples of fun that don’t involve risky behavior?
● What to do when we’re in situations that challenge us?
● How we can be in situations and find a ‘greater purpose’.