

Scripture: 1 John 2:15-17

I. Satan's Schemes: Sinful Pleasure

A. Sinful Pleasures

1. **1 John 2:15a-16**
 - a) **Lust of the flesh = sinful pleasures**
 - b) **Lust of the flesh belongs to the world**
2. **2 Thess. 2:12**
 - a) **Lust of the flesh = Pleasure in wickedness**
 - b) **List of flesh = Galatians 5:19-21**

B. Subjugates Us

1. **Titus 3:3**
 - a) **Before surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit as He convicts us of our sin and convinces us of the truth of Gospel resulting in faith we are enslaved to Satan**
 - (1) **We don't often think of pleasure as "enslavement" but that is the power of the Devil's deceit**
 - (2) **Ask an addict**
 - b) **After surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit we are free from enslavement to Satan**
 - (1) **Romans 8:11-12**
 - c) **While we are no longer enslaved we often enter into indentured servitude**

C. Strangles Our Growth

1. **Luke 8:14**
 - a) **It is easy to see "worries" as choking out growth but Jesus says that "riches and pleasures of life" also choke out growth**
 - b) **We become so consumed chasing after and/or managing our "riches and the pleasures of life" that we either**
 - (1) **Forget our need for God**
 - (2) **Forget God's role in our "riches and pleasure"**
 - (3) **Forget God's calling to serve and sacrifice**
 - c) **Any and all of the above strangle out our growth**

D. Supplants Our Love for God

1. **1 John 2:15b**
 - a) **One cannot love the way of God and the way of the world. The two are simply incompatible and incongruous**
 - b) **One cannot serve two masters (Matt. 6:24)**
2. **2 Timothy 2:4**
 - a) **Notice "rather than"**

3. **Romans 8:5-8**
 - a) **Seeking sinful pleasure is a mindset**
 - b) **It is a mindset that is not Spirit led**
 - c) **It is a mindset that is hostile not hospitable to God**
- E. **Settle for the Short-lived**
 1. **1 John 2:17**
 - a) **The lusts of this world are passing away**
 - b) **Temporary**
 - c) **Addicts chase a pleasure because that pleasure doesn't last**
 2. **Hebrews 11:24-25**
 - a) **Moses, as a member of Pharaoh's family, could have lived a life filled with worldly pleasures**
 - b) **He recognized that those pleasure were short-lived**
 - c) **As a result he chose the court of God over the court of Pharaoh**
 3. **Romans 8:13**
 - a) **Pursuing the sinful pleasures of this life lead to death**
 - b) **You may enjoy the ride but you want enjoy the destination and that destination is everlasting**

It is important for you not to leave here today thinking that pleasure is sinful. That would be a tragedy. What you must take away from this message is there is a difference between godly pleasure and worldly pleasure. Godly pleasure is found in being obedient to the Lord.

It is good for us to take pleasure in our godly marriages and godly families. It is right for us to experience and enjoy the pleasures God provides through biblical sexual morality. When we find pleasure in a well prepared meal, a nice house, or an outing with friends we must remember that all of those things are blessings and provisions from the Lord. The appropriate response to those blessings and provisions is continued obedience to him, prayers of praise, thankful hearts, and faithful service.

Sinful pleasures come from enjoying wicked and sinful behavior. It stems from a mind that is hostile to God's commands and his plan for us as his children. Reveling in the profane and vulgar, loving money instead of people, sexual immorality, addiction, and selfishness are just a few examples of the pleasures with which Satan seeks to entice us.

Certainly, God wants us to enjoy his creation. But he wants us to enjoy it according to his plan for his purposes. Will you commit to pursuing the pleasure of being an obedient child of God? Will you allow the Lord to transform your mind as an act of worship, so that you are no longer conformed to the worldly ways of seeking sinful pleasures?