

## *Today's Culture: Pursuit*

*"He richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." – 1 Timothy 6:17*

*"In the last days there will be people who prefer good times to worshipping God." – 2 Timothy 3:4*

### **Five dangers associated with making pleasure your goal in life –**

**Danger #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"By the pleasures of living, life is choked out of them and they produce nothing." – Luke 8:14*

**Danger #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Where do all the fights and quarrels come from? They come from your desires for pleasure." – James 4:1*

**Danger #3:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"There is pleasure in sin for a short time." – Hebrews 10:25*

**Danger #4:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"I decided to enjoy myself. Anything I wanted, I got. I did not deny myself any pleasure. Then I thought all about all I had done and I realized it didn't mean a thing. It was like chasing the wind – of no use at all." – Ecclesiastes 2:1, 10-11*

### **When pleasure is your ultimate goal, two laws go into effect:**

- **The law of diminishing return.**
- **The law of balance.**

**Danger #5:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"The one who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives." – 1 Timothy 5:6*

*"This person is killing their own soul." – 1 Timothy 5:6 (Phillips)*

### **Four stages of pleasure:**

**Stage #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Stage #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Stage #3:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Stage #4:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Their future is eternal loss for their God is their appetite." – Philippians 3:19*

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## How do we keep from getting caught up in today's pleasure obsessed culture?

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

*"From now on, live the rest of your lives controlled by God's will not by human desires. [Two options: be controlled by God's will or by my own desires.] You've spent enough time in the past doing what pagans do. Your lives are spent in indecency, lust, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and now when you don't join them they insult you. But they will give an account of themselves to God." – 1 Peter 4:2-4*

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

**If you want a model for balanced living, look at Jesus:** *"Jesus came enjoying life."* – Mt. 11:19

**If you don't plan for healthy pleasures in your life, the world will seduce you with unhealthy ones.**

*"For the earth and every good thing in it belongs to the Lord and is yours to enjoy."* – 1 Cor. 10:26

*"I am not going to let anything dominate me."* – 1 Corinthians 6:12

3. \_\_\_\_\_.

*"don't get drunk."* – Eph. 5:18 *"don't get addicted"* – 2 Peter 2:19 *"don't get involved in sexual immorality."* – 1 Corinthians 6:18

*"For the grace of God teaches us to say 'No' to worldly passions and live self-controlled lives."* – Titus 2:11-12

**The inability to say "No," is called an "addiction."**

*"For we ourselves were once slaves to passion and pleasures of all kinds, But when the kindness and love of God appeared, he saved us and gave us a new life."* – Titus 3:3-5

**Take a moment to reflect:**

**What am I running from?**

**Am I feeling guilty?**

**Am I angry?**

**Am I insecure?**

**Why am I pursuing pleasure?**

**If I am moving from one relationship to another, what am I really looking for?**

*"I've come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly."* – John 10:10

**Reflect: How will you apply this teaching? What really stood out to you in this message?**

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