

Happiness Hoax | Finding lasting happiness in relationships.

INTRODUCTION:

We're all on a quest for happiness. And yet, many of us seem to come up empty on the journey to find happiness no matter how hard we try. One of the primary arenas we all search for happiness is in relationships. We were created for relationships, but how we approach our relationships makes all the difference in whether they produce joy or pain in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When you experience unhappiness in life how does it typically affect your relationships? What do you think leads to happiness in your relationship with your spouse, family, or friends?
2. At this point in your life would you consider yourself happy? Why or why not?
3. Read John 15:1-8. What do you think it means to remain in Him? Everyone produces fruit in their life be it good or bad. What type of fruit has been produced the last 6 months in your life's relationships? Is there something that needs pruning in your life right now?
4. Read John 15:9-17. Have you ever been chosen for something? What struck you about being chosen? How does or would your life change knowing God chooses you and even considers you to be a friend?
5. God didn't encourage us or suggest to us we should love each other, but rather, he commanded it. Why would God command us to love one another as He loves us? What does it mean to love someone? What makes it difficult to love someone not like us?
6. Read Colossians 3:12-14. What does it mean to clothe yourself with these virtues? What difference would it make if someone chose to be kind to you this week? Chose to show you compassion? Chose to forgive you? Chose to be patient with you? What difference would it make for you and your relationships if you chose someone in your life and showed them patience? Kindness? Gentleness? Compassion?

TAKE A STEP

We all have room to grow in our relationships whether it's our relationship with God or with others. Begin praying about one area of your life that may need to be pruned. Maybe you'll find you need to share what needs to be pruned with someone you trust, but pray you would open this area of your life to be pruned. Next, select a loving virtue you read about in Colossians 3 to be clothed in this week. Then choose someone this week and love them in that way.

REMEMBER & MEDITATE

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12