



The Doctrine of ‘Fun’ (Joyology) **Ecclesiastes 3:1-4**

**I learned through books and teachers all about different ologies.
But this one was never taught. But, is definitely an important one!**

What do you do for fun?

Running a marathon is fun- working on a car is fun.

“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:

² A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;³ A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;⁴ A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;”

Ecclesiastes 2:24

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,

Ecclesiastes 3:13

Also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Ecclesiastes 8:15

And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 9:7

Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do.

Living in joy according to the Bible is a lasting internal state rooted in the presence of God and the Holy Spirit, rather than a fleeting feeling based on circumstances. To cultivate this deeper, supernatural joy, the Bible suggests seeking God's presence, praying, studying Scripture, abiding in Jesus, walking in community, and rejoicing in hope and the Lord's goodness, which is a gift and a fruit of the Spirit.

I preached recently on the concept of always rejoicing. I want to take it to a logical conclusion about what it looks like to always rejoice in the context of having fun in life.

It's a subject that has intrigued me most of my life. What does the abundant Christian life look like?

Did Jesus have fun? Is it ok to have fun? What does fun look like?

The word "fun" has an interesting etymology that can be traced back to the 17th century. It originated from the Middle English word "fon," which meant "fool" or "silly person." The term was often used to describe someone engaging in playful or lighthearted behavior.

Over time, the meaning of "fon" evolved to refer to any enjoyable or pleasurable activity. By the 18th century, the word had transformed into "fun," taking on a broader meaning of amusement or entertainment. It became associated with activities that brought joy, laughter, and a sense of enjoyment.

The word "fun" continued to gain popularity in the 19th and 20th centuries and became a common term used to describe various forms of recreation and leisure. It became commonly

associated with activities such as games, parties, and other social gatherings. Today, the word “fun” is widely used to describe anything that is enjoyable, entertaining, or pleasurable.

Ultimately, true joy comes from God, and He desires His people to experience the fullness of life in Him. By seeking fun that aligns with biblical principles, Christians can enjoy life while remaining faithful to their calling.

The definition of having fun is different to the world. It’s empty without having a personal relationship with Jesus. **John 10:10**

Partying, drinking and drunk, sensuality, etc.

Luke 12- Eat, drink and be merry- Proverbs 14:12; 16:25

It’s not all about fun and games!

Ill. Wrestling in the living room (console tv, console record player)- my mom’s words- that’s no way for a pastor to act????

There is a context of having fun in life as a Christ follower.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Bowl, hunt, wash dishes, meet with people, change diapers, sing, shout, dance...

Psalm 149:3

Let them praise **his name** with dancing, making melody **to him** with tambourine and lyre!

Colossians 3:17: “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

When we are relaxing and having fun or when we are seeking entertainment, we should always make sure these activities are pleasing God. While fun is not inherently wrong, it should never become more important than God. Some people

prioritize entertainment over prayer, Bible study, and worship. Others spend excessive time on hobbies while neglecting their spiritual responsibilities.

Joy is a prerequisite to fun- it's a state of being

Fun is not based on the circumstances

Fun is not the goal, it's the result!

Life is too short to not have fun.

We must loosen up a bit to get the most out of life. (It's not the end of the world line)

✓ What does having fun look like for a Christian?

The Greek word refers to the uplifting, ongoing, cheerfulness of the Christian. Joy is the helium of the heart that makes us airborne. It's the corklike quality of our souls that keeps us buoyant.

James 1- ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- ✓ It involves having a changed perspective. (attitude)
- ✓ It involves a choice **COUNT IT**
- ✓ It involves a focus on the important things of life.

- ✓ It results in less ulcers and less stress. **KNOW IT**

Pastor friend- refused to deal with problems- heart condition

III. A guy I haven't seen for over 30 years!

- ✓ It involves turning problems into fun. **LET IT**

- It's about not carrying the burdens.

III. Care, but don't carry!

Proverbs 15:13, 17:22

A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Here is a vaccine I can get behind with all of my support!

Deuteronomy 12:7

And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, **in all that you undertake**, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

Luke 15:23-24

And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Psalms 126:2

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

Proverbs 5:18-23

Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with delight; be intoxicated always in her love. Why should you be intoxicated, my son, with a forbidden woman and embrace the bosom of an adulteress? For a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord, and he ponders all his paths. The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. ...

Psalm 95:1-99:9

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ...

Psalm 16:11

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

My Take-away: