



October 10, 2010

God Is Not Antifun

A routine by a famous comedian years ago was about what some called fun. He described folks drinking too much and then holding onto the toilet bowl as they threw up. Some called that fun and then repeated the behavior the next week. Humans are paradoxical creatures. We have a tendency to pursue things that will do us harm while trying to convince ourselves that these activities are “fun”. Based on this type of thinking there are many who don’t want to be a Christian because they will miss out on the fun in life. Is it really fun when we do something and realize later that while we were engaging in that activity we might have lost our lives, damaged our reputations or caused irreparable harm to someone else? A woman was executed in Texas years ago because she and her boyfriend committed a murder while under the influence of drugs. A lot of drug users start out thinking that the experience will be a lot of fun only to find that it is a snare that pulls them into a downward spiral from which death may be the only relief. Alcohol claims multitudes of lives every year due to traffic accidents, disease and other mishaps. Advertisers make drinking look like a fun thing to do. The scriptures are very plain about these types of activities. God tries to warn us and save us from our warped definition of fun. It is interesting that the things God warns us about have the potential of robbing us of our happiness and peace of mind. Paul states, “***Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.***” (Gal 5.19-21). Each of the items on this list are damaging to the person who engages in such things and also to everyone else the individual comes into contact with. God did not leave a list like this to rob of us of having a good time. On the contrary, he is trying to help us preserve our lives and prepare for living with him. Many treat sexuality as a casual activity that can be engaged in at any time and neglect to understand that any relationship outside a marriage sanctioned by God is not acceptable. The world however only focuses on the short term relationships folks have and the immediate satisfaction. Paul addressed this when he wrote to the Corinthians. “***Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.***” (1 Cor 6.18). A variety of diseases and social burdens related to sexual indiscretions are one of the biggest problems that faces our culture and has been one the problems that man has always had to face. God created marriage for the satisfaction of the needs that we have physically and emotionally. People view marriage as too restrictive, some going so far as to compare it to a form of slavery. In an effort to maintain individuality, while achieving satisfaction, genuine dedication to another is avoided. The result is that God’s design for our lives is left behind and we find ourselves in the grips of chaos, divorce and confusion. All in the name of finding our own way and having “fun” while we do so. By leaving God’s plan for stable lives and homes behind have we made things better? Some might think this but I am reminded of the analogy of people having fun. It hurts, it embarrasses, it creates problems in almost every area of life and some can’t wait to get out and do it again, then hide from the reality of what they are doing. But that is not appealing and Christians can’t have fun. The truth is that God invented fun and living as a Christian brings no regrets or sleepless nights worrying about what we have done. That’s fun. Real fun should indeed make one feel good, satisfied and not create worries or anxiety. Being a Christian eliminates a lot of these unnecessary problems.

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