

Finding Meaning: Wisdom from Ecclesiastes
Full Contentment
Ecclesiastes 11:7-10; 12:9-14

The culture has become experts at redefining terms to fit a particularly desired narrative. For instance, tolerance is only tolerance if it is accompanied by acceptance and affirmation. One cannot be tolerant of another person if one doesn't completely embrace and affirm that person's worldview. Likewise, the concept of obedience has been twisted to mean restrictive and oppressive. We live in a world where everyone wants the right to say to anyone, "You're not the boss of me!"

1. Savor a life lived in _____.
2. Rejoice in your _____.
3. Remove any obstacles to _____.

_____ is the key to a full life.

Solomon says to _____.

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The gospel frees us to live the joy-filled, abundant life of holiness in obedience to all that Jesus has commanded. Reverent obedience to God is the way to enjoy the life He has given us. This brief life is a gift from God, but in Christ, we can enjoy this life to the fullest measure. We can take advantage of each day we have and live in full obedience to the glory of God. In Christ, the meaninglessness and futility of life is gone—forever.

Reflection

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commands," (John 14:15). What are some ways you can cultivate obedience to God this week? How do you express biblical fear in your prayer time? When you pray this week, worship Him, surrender to Him, and acknowledge His lordship over your life both in words and in actions. If joy is absent or if life too often seems meaningless, consider areas of your life that may be lacking in obedience. A lack of joy might not be because of disobedience, but a lack of joy in a believer needs to be honestly considered and evaluated. Consider ways that you might be obedient this week to one of the greatest commandments of Christ found in the Great Commission. Begin thinking about and praying for that one person who might benefit from a gospel conversation with you.