
Protégé: "For the Joy"

Key Takeaways:

- 1. God created everything for His glory, and His creation is good when received with thanksgiving.*
- 2. We shouldn't separate ourselves entirely from "secular" things, as we can miss opportunities to be a light in the world.*
- 3. Train for godliness, not just emptiness - focus on filling ourselves with God's spirit, not just avoiding sin.*
- 4. Joy in Christ should be evident in our lives, making our faith attractive to others.*

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How have you traditionally viewed the separation between "Christian" and "secular" things in your life? Has this sermon challenged that view?*
- 2. Pastor mentioned the story of Daryl's coffee shop. How might we engage with our community in similar ways, bringing Christ into "secular" spaces?*
- 3. What are some ways we might be falling into the trap of "pointless self-denial" rather than finding joy in Christ?*
- 4. How can we strike a balance between adhering to Christian disciplines and engaging with the world around us?*
- 5. The sermon mentioned that some people define their faith by what they don't do. How can we shift our focus to what we actively do as followers of Christ?*
- 6. What are some areas in your life where you could find more joy in Christ, potentially making your faith more attractive to others?*

Practical Applications:

1. *This week, think of an activity or space you might have previously avoided as "secular." Reflect on how you can bring Christ's light into that situation.*
2. *Practice gratitude for God's creation. Each day, thank God for something you enjoy that He has made.*
3. *Evaluate your spiritual disciplines. Are they helping you grow closer to God and find joy in Him, or have they become rote obligations?*
4. *Look for opportunities to share the joy of your faith with others, focusing on the positive aspects of following Christ rather than just rules or restrictions.*

Closing Prayer: *Closing Prayer: End with a prayer asking God to help group members find joy in Him and be effective witnesses in all areas of life.*

QUICK-HIT Questions (for less formal discussion)

Pick and Choose from any questions that might fit your discussion

1. How might our tendency to separate 'Christian' and 'secular' activities limit our ability to be a light in the world? What opportunities might we be missing to share God's love in unexpected places?
2. In what ways can we find a balance between disciplining ourselves spiritually and avoiding the trap of 'pointless self-denial' that Paul warns against?
3. How does the concept of being 'above reproach' as discussed in the sermon challenge us to live differently in our daily lives?
4. What are some practical ways we can 'train for godliness' rather than just focusing on avoiding sin?
5. How might our understanding of God's creation as 'good' impact the way we interact with the world around us?
6. In what ways can we cultivate joy in our Christian walk while still maintaining spiritual discipline?
7. How does the parable of the impure spirit returning to an empty house (Luke 11) relate to our spiritual growth and the importance of being filled with God's presence?
8. What are some potential dangers of only surrounding ourselves with 'Christian' things, and how can we engage with the broader world while staying true to our faith?
9. How can we discern between helpful spiritual disciplines and the 'godless myths and old wives' tales' that Paul warns Timothy about?
10. In what ways can we set an example 'in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity' as Paul instructs Timothy, especially in non-church settings?