

I Have The Right To Be Happy

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6

I Have The Right To Be Happy!

*"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are **life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**" (Thomas Jefferson, Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776)*

The phrase gives three examples of the "**unalienable rights**" which the Declaration says have been given to all human beings by their Creator, and which governments are created to protect.

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- ▶ Society ...
 - Walk away from marriage. Malachi 2:14
 - Sinful activities. Genesis 6; 1 Corinthians 6
 - Happiness is the most important goal in life.

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- A refusal to take life seriously (We only live once - so live it up, have fun! "Get all the gusto you can!")
- The use/abuse of intoxicants (alcohol, drugs, trying to cope!)
- Materialism - bigger is better, more is best! (cf. Don Snider, not happier with more!)
- Entertainment (Camping out to buy tickets to see _____. Church programs!)

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- Sports Involvement - (Pay to play, almost a religion - taking precedence)!
- Sensuality - (LGBT, nudity, sex, pornography)!
- Self-esteem - (No one loses, everyone gets a trophy, no valedictorian)!

Ecclesiastes 2:1-10

Ecclesiastes 2:10 "And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them; I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced because of all my labor; and this was my portion from all my labor."

Ecclesiastes 12:13

"(This is) the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole (duty) of man."

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Ecclesiastes 7:1-6

"A (good) name is better than precious oil; and the day of death, than the day of one's birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter; for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made glad. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity."

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Solomon's search for pleasure drove him to God

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Some Benefits of Grief

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6

1. Brings Frenzy Into Focus. (verse 2)
2 Corinthians 4:18; 5:1; Job 9:25; James 4:14; Psalms 39:4
2. Reminds Us Of What Is Real. (verse 3)
Proverbs 17:22; John 16:33; cf. Ecclesiastes 9:7; Job 14:1; cf. Genesis 3:19
Sickness, Death, and Grief are real! Luke 12:23
 - Prepare your children.
3. Tells Us To Get Serious. (verse 4) Grow up!
cf. 1 Corinthians 13; cf. Luke 12:20; READ Ecclesiastes 8:8; 7:6
4. Affirms That We **Too** Are Mortal. (verse 1)
James 1:2-3
 - Many unprepared for life / death. Luke 6:25

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Solomon's search for pleasure drove him to God

"It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart."
Ecclesiastes 7:2

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