

CouplesInBloom.com – More Than Funny

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A merry heart does good like a medicine ⇨ Proverbs 17:22, *even if merry about evil*. The merriness of Isaiah 22:13 is real ⇨ Eat meat, drink wine, and be merry, for tomorrow we die (quoted by God's enemies). God killed them, but they *were* merry until He did. In Luke 15:23-25 ⇨ eating meat and being merry with music and dancing was God's idea because a lost son was found. The emotion of being merry is temporary; *its reason is not*.

We can be merry about truth ⇨ Psalm 86:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6; and about evil (but shouldn't) ⇨ Proverbs 2:10-14; Acts 7:41. These Scriptures specify the outcomes from each choice which, unlike the *immediacy* of being merry, take effect *later* and *slowly*: the enemies of God that Isaiah prophesied about died *later*; the blessings of a repentant son unfolded *slowly* and *lasted*. These all hint at knowing *why* the merriment before joining.

Solomon, who wrote ⇨ Proverbs 17:22 ⇨ "A merry heart does good like a medicine" *also* wrote ⇨ Ecclesiastes 7:3 ⇨ "Sorrow is better than laughter; for by the sadness of **the face** the heart is made better." This addition of "**the face**" (also translated "**presence**") means **the person**, and *not* merely one of their emotions! Moses used this word when he told God, "If Your **presence** does not go, do not cause **us** to go" ⇨ Exodus 33:15. **Moses had the closest relationship with God of any human**. "So what?" you ask? Read on:

God is so patient! Otherwise, we'd all be doomed. God knows our maturity takes time. His goal is *relationship* with us, He *is* love itself, so He tolerates a lot. This grace is easily abused to be a license to sin ⇨ Romans 6, and isolating certain other Bible verses makes this compromise actually seem like maturity (!!): ⇨

* 1 John 5:16 ⇨ **That**: there is sin not unto death (*but if it is willfully embraced: it prioritizes and declares human desire over God's heart, as communicated in Scripture*).

* 1 Corinthians 6:12 ⇨ **That**: everything is permissible but not everything is beneficial (*thinking God forgives anyway, so saying yes to this urge is okay, self-justifying my lust*).

* Romans 14:20; Titus 1:15 ⇨ **That**: to the pure all things are pure (*avoiding the wholeness of other scriptures, as did the original "Hookers for Jesus" (not the ministry)*).

God alone judges the intimacy impact to Him from those who do such. **For intimacy, keep Moses' heart example: test everything by God's presence** ⇨ 1 Thessalonians 5:21. Things can make us merry / seem **funny** (*good & evil*), yet others are **more than funny**:

* The wicked plot against the righteous and gnashes on him with his teeth; the Lord **laughs** at him, for He sees that his day is coming ⇨ Psalm 37:12-13.

* Kings of earth plot against Jehovah and His Anointed... He who sits in the heavens shall **laugh**; the Lord shall mock at them... and terrify them in His wrath ⇨ Psalm 2:2-5.

* God has made **laughter** for me; all who hear will **laugh** with me ⇨ Genesis 21:6.

* When Jehovah turned the captivity of Zion... our mouth was filled with **laughter**, and singing; the nations said, Jehovah has done great things with them ⇨ Psalm 126:1-2.

* God gives wisdom, knowledge, and **joy** to the good in **His sight** ⇨ Ecclesiastes 2:26.

The **fun** of the wicked *fails*; it lacks God's **presence** ⇨ Proverbs 1. **More than funny** is: when what we are merry about **makes God merry**. In **His presence** is **fullness of joy**. ♥