

Series: "Empty Promises"
Part 4: "The Problem of Pleasure"
Crossroads Community Church
December 4, 2022

Pleasures are great _____, but they're terrible _____

I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good."

Ecclesiastes 2:1a (NIV)

² "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" ³ I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. ⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me.

Ecclesiastes 2:2-9 (NIV)

Gifts turned into gods _____

*"All man's efforts are for his mouth,
Yet his appetite is never satisfied."*

Ecclesiastes 6:7 (NIV)

I acquired... a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart.

Ecclesiastes 2:8b (NIV)

Gifts turned into gods _____

²⁴ *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.*

Genesis 2:24 (NIV)

⁹⁶ *To all perfection I see a limit, but your commands are boundless.*

Psalm 119:96 (NIV)

¹⁰ *I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;
I refused my heart no pleasure.*

*My heart took delight in all my labor,
and this was the reward for all my toil.*

¹¹ *Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done
and what I had toiled to achieve,
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind;
nothing was gained under the sun.*

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 (NIV)

¹³ *Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.*

¹⁴ *For God will bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden thing,
whether it is good or evil.*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (NIV)

Don't just _____ idols, _____ them!

Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

Additional Resources:
gods at War – Kyle Idleman

Sermon Notes:
