

Doesn't God Want Me to be Happy?

"Happiness" – we all seek it, books are written about it, and sometimes we are willing to fight for it. It just seems *logical* that God wants us to be happy! Right? Well... not necessarily!

Jeremiah is called the "weeping prophet, and the sorrows of Job are clearly recorded. So does this mean God wants us to be sad or sorrowful? Well... not necessarily.

An old, oft repeated saying is, "God does not want you to be happy, He wants you to be holy." That gets closer to a fuller answer but still falls a bit short. As we read through God's word we see incredible joy and rejoicing at times, yet we also see deep sorrow at other times. Why the dichotomy?

As exhibit "A" I would offer the prodigal son. He is in a wonderful situation at first – a home, a family, all his needs met and no hint of bad stuff. Yet he decides to leave father and family and seek the sinful pleasures of life (Luke 15:11-32 chronicles his journey).

Jesus is quite clear, the prodigal son lives a life of wanton sinfulness and lands in life's pit of despair (the NASB translation says "he became impoverished"). The question *at that point in life* is: "Does God want Him to be happy *in that state?*" The clear answer is, "No!" In verse 17, "he came to his senses" and decided to leave his sorrow and return to his father, where the blessings of life were abundant.

This parable needs no clarification. The Father's plans are for his children to *stay home and enjoy the blessings of the Father's house*. Jesus said in John 15:11, "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full."

God wants us to be **joyful** in His will, and **sorrowful** when we are away from Him! *So humanly based happiness is not God's will. God based joy is God's will for all of us!* Never get sidetracked by the "human happiness" paradigm. Be committed to staying close to the Father, in His house!

-Ray Wallace