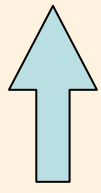


The Pursuit of Pleasure

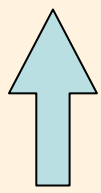
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

**What is
most
important
to you?**



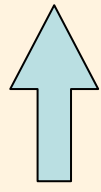
Pleasure

Feeling excited



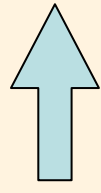
Relationship

Feeling loved



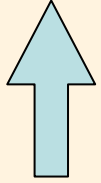
Entertainment

Feeling amused



Accomplishment

Feeling successful



Sex

Feeling passionate

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

"I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was futility. I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?" I explored with my mind *how* to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding *me* wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself, and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves, and I had homeborn slaves.

Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. Also, I collected for myself silver and gold, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men--many concubines. Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. And all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.

I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself!

Amusement (2:2)	I said of laughter, “It is madness,” and of pleasure, “What does it accomplish?”
Stimulation (2:3)	I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely.
Projects (2:4-6)	I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself ...
Possessions (2:7)	I bought male and female slaves, and I had home born slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem.
Collections (2:8a)	Also, I collected for myself silver and gold, and the treasure of kings and provinces.
Entertainment (2:8b)	I provided for myself male and female singers
Sex (2:8c)	I provided for myself ... the pleasures of men--many concubines.

Cycle of Satisfaction

Where are you at in life now?

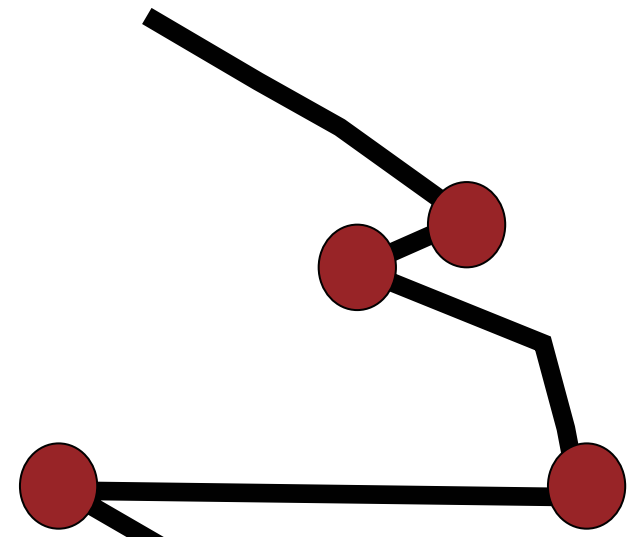
Delighted with accomplishment

Excitement of pursuit

Slow pursuit

Frustration over difficulties

Bottomed out with lack of purpose



An Early Application

Stage	Temptation
Excitement of pursuit	Chase after things with wrong motive
Frustration over difficulties	Give up, depression, despair
Slow pursuit	Compromise, workaholic, don't enjoy life
Delighted with accomplishment	Arrogance, don't share glory, immorality
Bottomed out with lack of purpose	Aimlessness, start wrong pursuit, don't reflect

A Pursuit of Pleasure

“I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.” Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me.

And all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.”

“Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have” (Hebrews 13:5)

Hedonism

The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and ... they are choked with worries and riches and **pleasures** of this life.

Luke 8:14

For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and **pleasures**.

Titus 3:3

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your **pleasures** that wage war in your members?

James 4:1

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your **pleasures**.

James 4:3

They count it a **pleasure** to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you.

2 Peter 2:13

Pleasure Seeker's Chart



Pleasure

Satiated

Stimulation

**Snared into
repetition**

Desperate

Guilty

**Emotional,
physical and
spiritual downs**

Tempted

Empty

Distracted

Despair

Bored



When pleasure provides one's needed meaning or significance in life, then one becomes dependent on increasing amounts of pleasure.

The “I” Factor

I explored with my mind *how* to stimulate my body with wine.

I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I

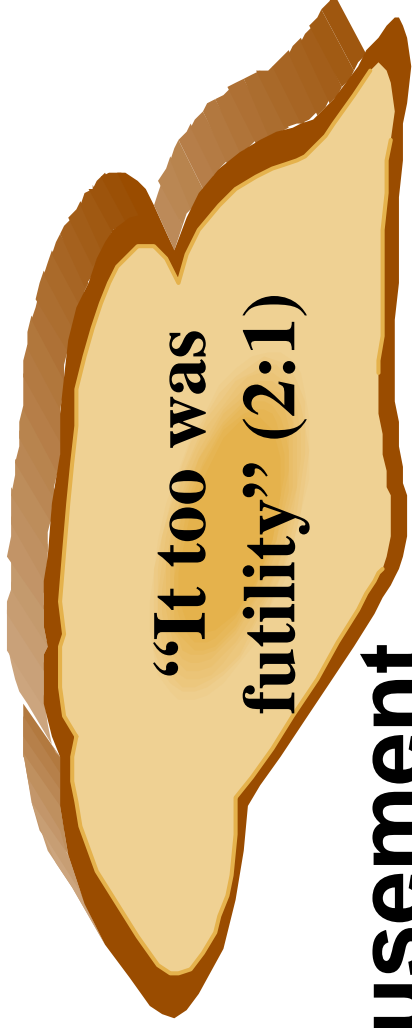
made gardens and parks for myself

I collected for myself silver and gold

I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men

And all that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure

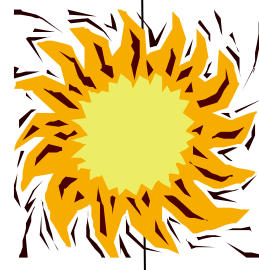
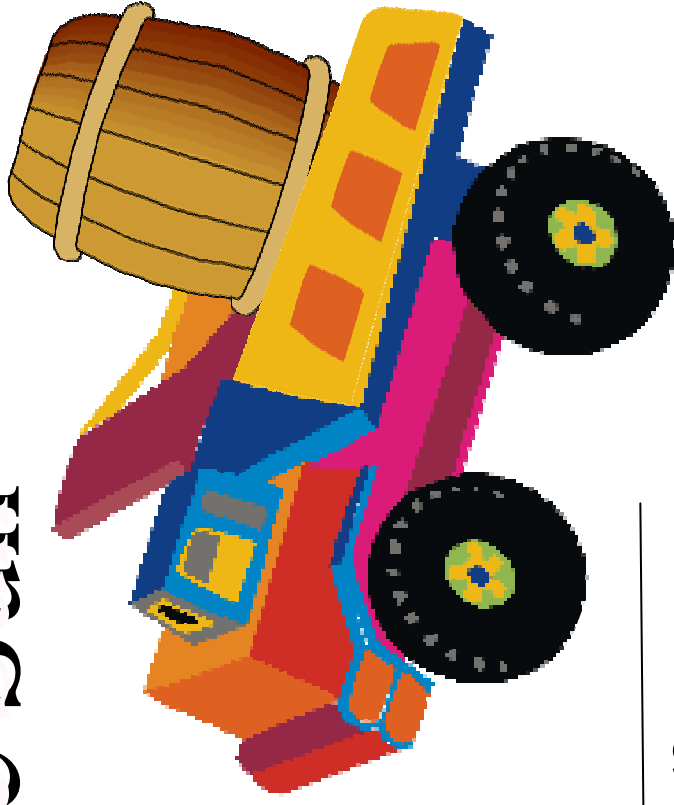
The Sandwich of Satisfaction



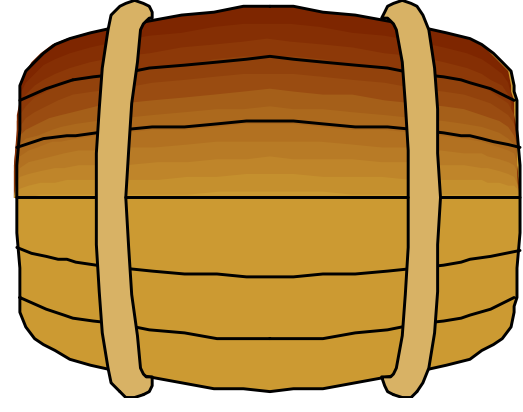
Amusement
Projects
Possessions
Collections
Entertainment
Fame



Above the Sun



Under the Sun



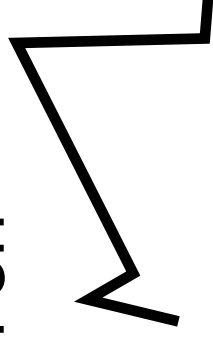
What does it
mean to live for
God?

A Look at Our lives

1) What are you chasing after in this life?

Your self or God your Maker?

2) Are you facing some temptation on the *Cycle of Satisfaction*?



3) Have you begun to live for God's glory?
What other area of your life can you
renounce living for yourselves and live for
God?