

# Trivial Pursuits

WHAT REALLY MAKES FOR A HAPPY LIFE?



- Our pursuits reveal an internal **void** in our lives.

Spiritual **needs** can't be satisfied by **temporary** things.

- The void within us can only be **satisfied** by **God**.

"Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." John 4:13-14 (NLT)

## Signs you might not feel good enough:

- You worry about what others **think**.
- You're often overly **sensitive**.
- You compromise your **values**.
- You hesitate sharing your **faith**.
- You have a hard time saying **no**.

4 Make a careful exploration of who **you are** and the work **you have** been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. **Don't compare yourself with others**. 5 Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life. Galatians 6:4-5 (MSG)

## When we compare...

- We **resent** God's goodness to others and **ignore** God's blessings in our own lives.
- We fail to acknowledge God's **value** of us.

## 5 destructive comparisons:

- My worst to your best: **Envy**.
- My best to your worst: **Boasting**.
- My less to your more: **Greed**.
- My win to your loss: **Pride**.
- My loss to your win: **Jealously**.

12 If you puff yourself up, you'll get the wind knocked out of you. But if you're content to simply be yourself, your life will count for plenty. Matthew 23:12 (MSG)

While we strive to be good enough, internally we long to be **accepted** and **appreciated**.

25 It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the LORD, you are safe. Proverbs 29:25 (TEV)

## Two things you need to know about you:

- God's **view** of you is **different** than you think.

10 For we are God's **masterpiece**. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the **good things** he planned **for us long ago**. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

- God has **given** you **more** than you think.

7 For who do you know that really knows you, knows your heart? And even if they did, is there anything they would discover in you that you could take credit for? Isn't everything you have and everything you are sheer gifts from God? So what's the point of all this comparing and competing? 8 You already have all you need. You already have more access to God than you can handle... 1 Corinthians 4:7-8 (MSG)

## Putting an end to comparisons:

- Focus on pleasing **God** instead of pleasing **people**.

10 Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

- Live **from** the approval of **God** instead of **for** the approval of **people**.

4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV)

## What God says about you:

- God says He **accepts** you.
- God says He **values** you.
- God says He **loves** you.
- God says He **forgives** you.
- God says you are His **child**.
- God says you **belong** to Him.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17 (ESV)



To **Creatively** love and lead people  
in a growing **relationship with Jesus**.

## Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you struggle with feelings of not being good enough? How does that affect how you live your life? How do you think it affects the potential of your life?
- When we don't get our value from God, we try to find it through comparisons. What are some things that we think gives our lives value?
- Why is comparing ourselves to others dangerous?
- Which of the 5 destructive comparisons do you struggle with most?
- Talk about the two fill-ins under the sub-heading: "Two things you need to know about you."
- What are some ways we can focus on pleasing God rather than people?
- How do we live from God's approval?
- Other than the two points given, how can we put an end to comparisons?
- What are some other things that God says about us that are not listed?

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### WHO DOES GOD SAY YOU ARE?

God has called you his masterpiece. Eph 2:10

God himself lives in you. Rom 8:11

You are greatly loved by God. Romans 1:7

You are God's possession. 1 Peter 2:9

You are chosen by God. Ephesians 1:3-4

You are a friend of God . (John 15:15)

You are loved. ([1 John 4:19](#), [4:10](#), [3:16](#), [Romans 5:8](#), [8:35-39](#))

You are irreplaceable. 1 Thessalonians 1:4

You are worth dying for. ([1 John 3:16](#), [Romans 5:7-9](#))

You are forgiven. ([Ephesians 1:7](#), [1 John 1:9](#), [Romans 8:1](#), [33-39](#))

You are His child. ([1 John 3:1](#), [Galatians 3:26](#))

You are secured for all eternity. ([2 Corinthians 1:22](#), [John 10:28-29](#))

You are the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

You are set free from the power of sin. ([Romans 6:18](#), [Galatians 5:1](#))

You are precious to Him. ([Isaiah 43:4](#))

You are set apart. ([John 15:16](#), [19](#), [1 Peter 2:9](#))

You are a citizen of heaven. Philippians 3:20

You are a child of God and an heir of God. Galatians 4:7



### Today's Talk..



“Good Enough”