

# Trivial Pursuits

WHAT REALLY MAKES FOR A HAPPY LIFE?



- The pursuits of our lives expose the **needs** in our lives.

Spiritual needs are not satisfied **trivial** things.

- Only **God** can satisfy the needs of your life.

For God satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. Psalm 107:9

You were created **from** love and **for** love.

...all things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

... **God is love**. 1 John 4:16 (NIV)

**Even before he made the world, God loved us** ....This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

Rather than pursuing **God** we pursue **people**.

## **In our pursuit for love:**

- We look for someone to **accept** us.
- We look for someone who **wants** us.
- We look for someone to **complete** us.
- We look for someone that **gets** us.

- When we live **from** God's love, we don't have to live **for** the love of people.

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

4 Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

- God has already **provided** His love to you.

Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love...

Ephesians 1:4 (MSG)

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8 (TLB)

## **Why we pursue other things:**

- Some are looking for a **feeling**, rather than a **fact**.

We know how much God loves us because we have felt his love and because we believe him when he tells us that he loves us dearly. God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him. 1 John 4:16 (TLB)

- Some want to **define** love, rather than have **love** define them.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

- Some don't really **understand God's** love.

## **3 Types of Love:**

- PHILEO = **Brotherly** love.
- EROS = **Passionate** love.
- AGAPE = **Unconditional God** love.

God's love will only satisfy you when it becomes your **personal** experience.

17 I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love;

18 ...may you be able to feel and understand, **as all God's children should**, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is; 19 and to **experience this love for yourselves**, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God himself. Ephesians 3:18-19 (TLB)

## **To experience God's love:**

- Make God the **priority** of your life.

17 I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in him.

Ephesians 3:17a (TLB)

- Look to God to **satisfy** your life.

..Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. Ephesians 3:17b(NLT)

- Pursue a life of **discovering** God.

18 ...may you be able to feel and understand, **as all God's children should**, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high his love really is... Ephesians 3:18 (TLB)

- God's love satisfies us because He **secures** us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

For God satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things. Psalm 107:9



## **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?
- What does it mean to you that you were created from love and for love?
- What are people really looking for the they are looking for love? Why do we tend to pursue people to fill this need rather than God?
- Do you think it's true: "Some want to define love, rather than have love define them"?
- Talk about the 3 different types of love. What does it mean that God loves us unconditionally? How can that kind of love fill the void in our lives?
- How does making God a priority in our lives allow us to experience God's love?
- How do we look to God to satisfy our lives?
- What does it mean to you to pursue a life of discovering God? How does that allow us to experience God's love?
- How does God's love secure us? How does that impact our lives?

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Today's Talk..



Pursuing Love