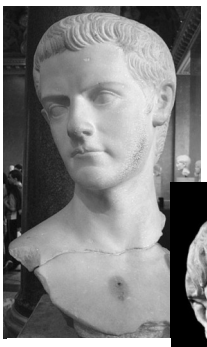
Big Lies of the Devil

Lie # 4 – You need to live for maximum pleasure –

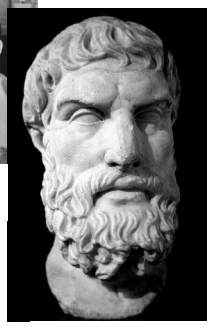
The Lie of HEDONISM

James 4:1-3 and Selected Scriptures

8/15/10



Caligula



Epicurus

What is Hedonism?

- the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good.
- devotion to pleasure as a way of life:

Our selfish nature propels us to seek pleasure at all cost:

Beware of the…

Altruistic pursuit of pleasure

Iniquitous pursuit of pleasure

Excessive pursuit of pleasure

Exclusive pursuit of pleasure

God is not against us receiving pleasure; rather, He desires that we obtain true pleasure in His time and in His way.

True pleasure is from God:

Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; ***at thy right hand there are pleasures*** *for evermore.*

The bottom line is this. We were created that we might know God, be satisfied by God, and please & glorify Him!

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure [for Thy desire] *they are and were created.*

What Pleases God? ***The Work of His Son: Jesus Christ:***

1. **God is pleased by our adoption as children -** Psalms 149:4
2. **God is pleased by our deep, reverential respect for Him -** Psalms 147:11
3. **God is pleased by our spiritual understanding of His plan -** Ephesians 1:9
4. **God is pleased by the uprightness of heart -** 1 Chronicles 29:17
5. **God is pleased by the public proclamation of His Gospel -**1 Corinthians 1:21
6. **God is pleased by obedience to parental authority -** Colossians 3:20
7. **God is pleased by a practice which matches with our position –**Col. 1:10
8. **God is pleased by our obedience to His Word -** 1 John 3:22
9. **God is pleased by every church member fulfilling his/her role -** 1 Cor 12:18
10. **God is pleased by our sacrificial giving -** Hebrews 13:16

"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." John Piper

Big Lies of the Devil

Lie # 4 – You need to live for maximum pleasure –

The Lie of HEDONISM

James 4:1-3 and Selected Scriptures

8/15/10

The Pursuit of Pleasure (Hedonism):

James 4:1-3

From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts (*hedone*) that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts (*hedone*).

Two Evidences of selfish pleasure:

CONFLICT (v. 1-2)

1. Internal Conflict (with yourself)

   "Among you" = in ( ) you)personally)

   I Pet. 2:11 - "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;"

   It is inner conflicts (feelings of tension and frustration) that cause outer conflicts.

   "In your members" = inside your body parts

   These conflicts come from a self-centered, pleasure-seeking old Nature (Rom. 7:14-25; 8:6-7).

   "Lusts" = pleasures; we get our English word "hedonism" from Greek. Hedonism is the doctrine that pleasure is the "sole or chief good in life."

   Cp. "Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" - II Tim. 3:4

   "That war" - describes a constant military campaign. These pleasures are described as alien soldiers that demand gratification and scheme as to how to get it. Our selfish pleasures like soldiers scheme and make plans to enter into conflict with anyone else who thwarts (stops) the fulfillment of those desires.

APPLI: Do you know why you are mad and defensive when someone points out sin in your life? It is because you are letting your fleshly appetites say: "No! Stop this person from keeping from us what we want!"

External Conflict (with others)

If there is war on the inside there will be war on the outside.

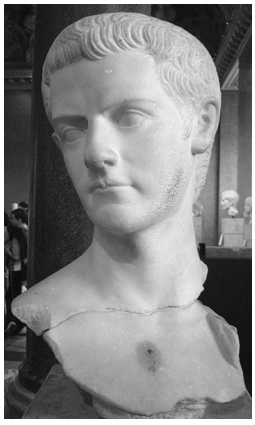
People who live for self-pleasure are constantly grasping after an eluding goal. Such failure disappoints and frustrates the person, who, unless he repents, will take his frustrations out on others.

NOTE: Punctuation is <u>not</u> inspired. James is saying because you lust and don't receive what you want, you <u>strike out</u> at others.
(CP. anger is just as guilt-worthy as murder - Mt. 5:21-22)

What is Hedonism?

- the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good.
- devotion to pleasure as a way of life:
- Etymology: Greek *hēdonē* pleasure; akin to Greek *hēdys* sweet
- the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life

The later Roman emperors were notorious for their hedonism.
Caligula was the Roman Caesar famous for his overindulgence in sexual orgies



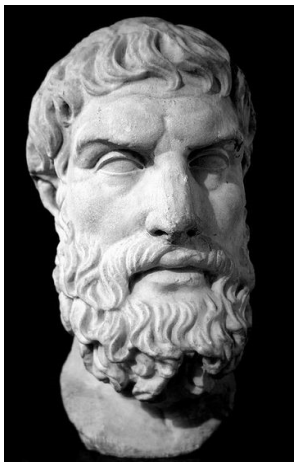
From Wikipedia:

The name derives from the Greek word for "delight" (ἡδονισμός hēdonismos from ἡδονή hēdonē "pleasure", a cognate of English sweet + suffix -ισμός -ismos "ism").

Democritus seems to be the earliest philosopher on record to have categorically embraced a hedonistic philosophy; he called the supreme goal of life "contentment" or "cheerfulness", claiming that "joy and sorrow are the distinguishing mark of things beneficial and harmful

The Cyrenaics were an ultra-hedonist Greek school of philosophy founded in the 4th century BC… taught that the only intrinsic good is pleasure, which meant not just the absence of pain, but positively enjoyable sensations. Of these, momentary pleasures, especially physical ones, are stronger than those of anticipation or memory. They did, however, recognize the value of social obligation, and that pleasure could be gained from altruism. The school died out within a century, and was replaced by the more sophisticated philosophy of Epicureanism.

Epicureanism is a system of philosophy based upon the teachings of Epicurus (c. 341–c. 270 BC), founded around 307 BC. Epicurus was an atomic materialist, following in the steps of Democritus. His materialism led him to a general stance against superstition and the idea of divine intervention. Following Aristippus—about whom very little is known—Epicurus believed that the greatest good was to seek modest pleasures in order to attain a state of tranquility and freedom from fear (ataraxia) as well as absence of bodily pain (aponia) through knowledge of the workings of the world and the limits of our desires. The combination of these two states is supposed to constitute happiness in its highest form. Although Epicureanism is a form of hedonism, insofar as it declares pleasure as the sole intrinsic good, its conception of absence of pain as the greatest pleasure and its advocacy of a simple life make it different from "hedonism" as it is commonly understood.


Epicurus

In the Epicurean view, the highest pleasure (tranquility and freedom from fear) was obtained by knowledge, friendship and living a virtuous and temperate life. He lauded the enjoyment of simple pleasures, by which he meant abstaining from bodily desires, such as sex and appetites, verging on asceticism. He argued that when eating, one should not eat too richly, for it could lead to dissatisfaction later, such as the grim realization that one could not afford such delicacies in the future. Likewise, sex could lead to increased lust and dissatisfaction with the sexual partner. Epicurus did not articulate a broad system of social ethics that has survived.

Utilitarianism is the belief that all action should be directed toward achieving the greatest total amount of happiness (Hedonic Calculus).

* One school, grouped around Jeremy Bentham, defends a quantitative approach. Bentham believed that the value of a pleasure could be quantitatively understood. Essentially, he believed the value of pleasure to be its intensity

multiplied by its duration - so it was not just the number of pleasures, but their intensity and how long they lasted that must be taken into account.

Hedonism can be conjoined with psychological egoism - the theory that humans are motivated only by their self interest - to make psychological hedonism: a purely descriptive claim which states that agents naturally seek pleasure. Hedonism can also be combined with ethical egoism - the claim that individuals should seek their own good - to make ethical hedonism the claim that we should act so as to produce our own pleasure.

However, hedonism is not necessarily related to egoism. The utilitarianism of John Stuart Mill is sometimes classified as a type of hedonism, as it judges the morality of actions by their consequent contributions to the greater good and happiness of all. This is altruistic hedonism. Whereas some hedonistic doctrines propose doing whatever makes an individual happiest (over the long run), Mill promotes actions which make everyone happy. Compare individualism and collectivism.

It is true that Epicurus recommends for us to pursue our own pleasure, but he never suggests we should live a selfish life which impedes others from getting to that same objective.

Some of Sigmund Freud's theories of human motivation have been called psychological hedonism[citation needed]; his "life instinct" is essentially the observation that people will pursue pleasure... Psychoanalysis has developed greatly since Freud but his ideas remain influential and contentious.

Hedonism with children

- Kids always want more; never satisfied
- Parents pursue their own pleasures and don’t deny self to spend time with their family
- Parents don’t discipline for the betterment of the child, but because the kid is interfering with their pursuit of pleasure

Hedonism in Church

- Avoidance of work, service, and ministry

Our selfish nature propels us to seek pleasure at all cost:

From what does man's sin stem? What is the common denominator for all sin? What is sin at its most basic, ultimate core?

The essence of sin is selfishness in the heart!

All forms of sin have their root in selfishness (cp. Strong, p. 569). Selfishness is the underlying factor behind all sin.

There is selfish motivation behind every sin!

a. Why is selfishness sin?

Basically: selfishness is a violation of the greatest of God's commands (a breaking of the all-encompassing requirement of the Law) -- to love God (Matt. 22:36-40; Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14).

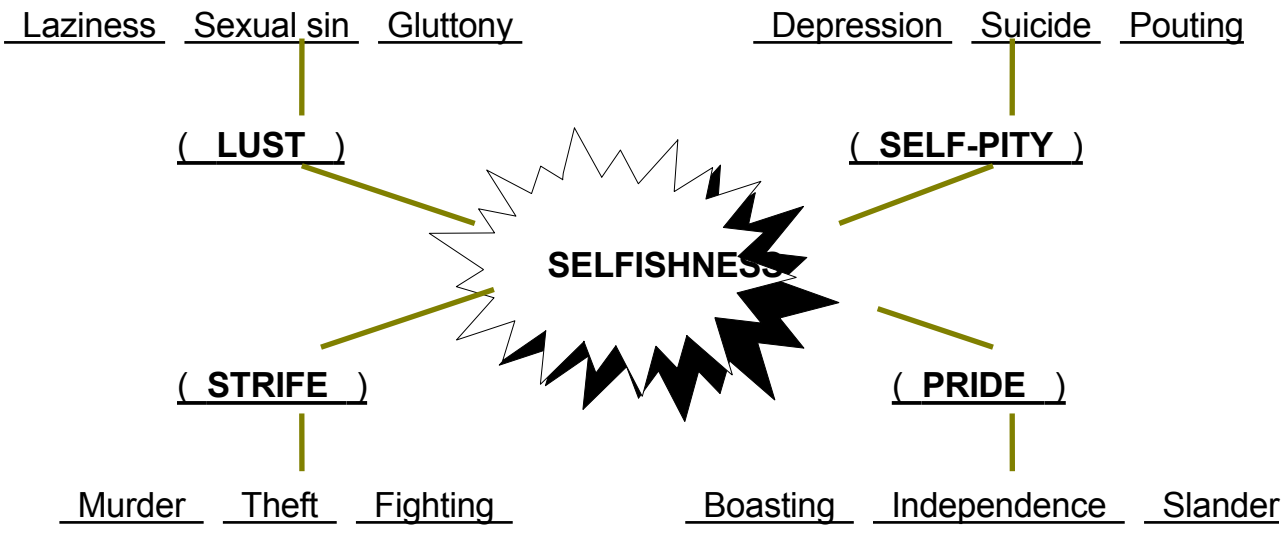
1) Selfishness places self ahead of God.

a) Selfishness says: "Me first" not "Thee first."
(Luke 9:57-62; it is actually idolatry - Col. 3:5)

b) Selfishness says: "My will be done" not "Thy will be done" (Mt. 6:10)

2) Selfishness places self ahead of others (Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 10:24)

b. Diagram of selfishness being the core, cause, or source of every other sin:



c. The manifestation of selfishness:

Selfishness basically expresses itself in four ways:

1) **Lust** (coveting for yourself)

Motive - Lust is the drive of selfishness
Attitude - Lust says, "I want it!"
Scripture - James 1:14-15; EX: David - II Sam. 11:1-5; Ahab - I Kings 21

2) **Self-pity** (feeling sorry for yourself

Motive - Self-pity is the justification of selfishness
Attitude - Self-pity says, "I deserve it!"
Scripture - EX: Elijah - I Kings 19

3) **Strife** (being wrongly ambitious for yourself)

Motive - Strife is the action of selfishness
Attitude - Strife says, "I will get it!"
Scripture - Phil. 1:15-16, 2:3; Ja. 3:14-16

4) **Pride** (showing off yourself)

Motive - Pride is the display of selfishness
Attitude - Pride says, "I have it!"
Scripture - Daniel 4:30ff

d. Illustrations of the essence and nature of sin:

1) Satan's most basic temptation: A promise of selfish independence ("You shall be as God" - Gen. 3:5)

2) The "Man of Sin" - "opposing and exalting himself against all that is called God" (II Th. 2:3-4).

Victory over selfishness is salvation! II Cor. 5:15; Gal. 2:20)

1. **Those who live for pleasure are self-centered** (all wrapped up in self)

   Isaiah 47:8a Therefore hear now this, *thou that art* given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I *am*, and none else beside me;

   "Mark it down: There are only two cookies on the shelf – pleasing God or pleasing self." Must choose one.

2. **Those who live for pleasure will not bear fruit**

   Luke 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

3. **Those who live for pleasure will not love God**

   2 Timothy 3:4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

4. **Those who live for pleasure make pleasure their master and themselves its servants**

   Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

5. **Those who live for sin's pleasures will do so only for a short season**

   Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

   Examples of pleasure seekers?

   Those who live for selfish pleasure have lives that are …
   - too Cluttered (jam-packed) to spend time with God in prayer & the Word
   - too preoccupied (busy & therefore tired) to expend energy serving God in a ministry
   - too lazy to be faithful to all regular church services

Beware of the…

<u>Altruistic</u> pursuit of pleasure
(This is when people do good so that they will feel good about what they did; Wrong motives in attaining pleasure)

<u>Iniquitous</u> pursuit of pleasure
(The acquisition of pleasure at the expense of truth and righteousness: beware of "perverted pleasure" – which is pleasure at the expense of God's will and Word; such as immoral sex; stealing etc. or avoidance of pain at the expense of truth and righteousness – ex. In the tribulation period when people will "take the mark" to avoid pain and difficulty.
Wrong method of attaining pleasure)

<u>Excessive</u> pursuit of pleasure
(Pleasure seeking becomes an obsession: Pleasure seeking becomes harmful to your stewardship of your time and body etc. (ex. Overeating etc.)

<u>Exclusive</u> pursuit of pleasure
(Pleasure become our God; an idol; Pleasure becomes an end in itself)

Are you a pleasure Seeker?

- You will not gain pleasure by seeking pleasure

God is not against us receiving pleasure; rather, He desires that we obtain <u>true</u> pleasure in His <u>time</u> and in His <u>way</u>.

God is not "anti-pleasure" He created things that we might enjoy these things and give Him praise and glory for it! (whether it is the pleasure of food, rest, recreation, sex in marriage etc.)

You will not achieve pleasure by seeking pleasure.

- True joy and happiness is the result of knowing God and pleasing God. True pleasure is the by-product (result) of bringing God pleasure Happiness is the result of doing right.
  As the Lord Jesus said: If ye know these things, <u>happy</u> <u>are</u> <u>ye</u> if ye do them. John 13:17

True pleasure is from God:

Job 36:11 If they obey and serve *him*, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years **in <u>pleasures</u>**.

Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; **at thy right hand *there are* <u>pleasures</u>** for evermore.

The world is filled with vain attempts to find real life, happiness, and pleasure.

NOTE: previous context - David found his satisfaction <u>in God</u> (See: **Psalm 16**).

1) God was his <u>protection</u> (vs. 1)

2) God was his <u>provision</u> (He didn't need a visa card) - Vs. 2 - ie. "My goodness (that I receive) is not extended to me by anyone other than you - God" The Hebrew says: "I have no good except in thee" "No good beyond thee" God is the source from which flows all that man needs and desires.

3) God's children were his <u>associations</u> (He didn't want worldly friends) - v. 3, 4. David loved to associate with the godly.

4) God was his <u>portion</u> (v. 5,6) (He had something better than <u>real estate)</u>. "Inheritance" = when the land of Israel was allotted to the tribes, none was assigned to the Levites, because God said, "I am thy portion and thine inheritance among the children of Israel" (Num. 18:20).
"Cup" = David is saying, "God, you quench my spiritual thirst!"

"Thou maintainest my lot" - NOTE: the land was apportioned by the casting of lots (Num. 26:55), the result being determined by God.
**My destiny is in His Hand.

"the lines" - measuring lines that marked off the area of land allocated (appreciate what God has given to you)

5) God was his <u>instructor</u> (v. 7) (He didn't need psychologists (shrinks))

6) God was his <u>goal</u> (obsession) (v. 8a) (He wasn't climbing the corporate ladder toward money)
(to live with the consciousness that God is in front of you will drastically change your lifestyle)

7) God was his <u>guide and helper</u> (v. 8b) (He was in better hands than "All-State")

8) God was his <u>happiness</u> (v. 9a) (The world can't match this joy)

9) God was his <u>confidence</u> (v. 9b) (his security)

10) God was his security (v. 10) (his insurance policy)
Acts 2:29-32
13:35-37

David's hope of victory over death was not because of something in himself, but it was fulfilled in Jesus.

Verse 11 - Now summarize the whole chapter.

Real satisfaction is in knowing God. And Jesus said that this privilege was hidden from the wise of this world and revealed to babes, and as Paul said, "made known by the Holy Spirit" (I Cor. 2:10-14).

The emphasis in this verse (as in the whole chapter) is on God! (NOTE: "thou . . . thy . . . thy").

You must always go to the right place (God) for satisfaction.

You must go to the true source of satisfaction!

1. His path leads to real life - never a dead end – v.11a

ILLUS: of receiving directions from someone and getting totally lost.

Today the world is lost! The blind are leading the blind. Only God gives direction to life.

"Thou wilt show me" = You will make known to me; you will cause me to know; You will teach me.

NOTE: The phrase refers to a full knowledge, not merely intellect but experience.

"Path" = way, manner. The normal word for path -

This word points not (merely) to the way toward life, but the way of living. The manner of true, satisfying living.

"The path of life" - the way indicated by God to man in which he lives in the highest sense of that term: the way of righteousness (Cohen, p. 39).

When you go God's way, your days are good! (top quality) and long (extended quantity)!
Jesus said the way to life was narrow (Mt. 7:14)

"Life" - READ Deut. 30:11-15, 19

David asked God to guide his way (Ps. 139:24 - "And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The world has motion, but no guidance from God (like scattered sheep without a shepherd).

Every one is in a hurry to go no where!

"We are more concerned about movement that with direction." (Jowett, p. 28).

We are more ambition to have the wheels going round, than for our lives to be going down God's road.

Do you see the infinite (God) in your pilgrimage through the finite (world)?

Do you see Him in your ordinary work, in your traveling, playing, learning, festivities (EX. of a wedding, etc.)?

2. His presence brings full satisfaction - never inadequate - v.11b

Illus: of being invited to someone's house for dinner and leaving hungry.

"Fullness" = to be satiated; filled up to the brim; to have in abundance.

"Joy" = gladness, rejoicing.

"In thy presence" = why don't men seek God's face; or desire His presence?

Because of sin (EX. Gen. 3:8-10 - "Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden." Men have been hiding ever since because of a love for "darkness rather than light . . ." (Jn. 1)

1) We need to pray - full joy is received by those who draw close to God (Ja. 1).

2) We need to "practice the presence of God." Full joy is received by those who "practice His presence"

(READ Ps. 139 - God knows all!)

We can't escape God's presence, yet we live sometimes as if He were not around.

EX. talking on the phone brings joy; but seeing face to face brings real, fullness of joy!

The most lonely time in history must have been when Christ was separated from and forsaken by the Father (Mt. 27:46) as He was bearing the sin of the world.

3. His pleasures <u>never run out</u> - never exhaustible – v.11c

Why are riches at God's right hand? Because this is where <u>Christ is</u>! Christ is the source of all our spiritual riches (Eph. 2:7 - "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.")

"For evermore" = endlessly, eternally.

Our God is a God who gives and gives and gives.

What He gives never gets outdated, old, or goes out of style.

No wonder Jesus said, "Lay up for yourselves treasurers in Heaven." But Satan (the liar) tempts man to believe that God is withholding something from you!

God only withholds that which will dishonor Him and do us harm.

Can you honestly say:

1. My direction is <u>in God</u>
2. My joy is <u>in God</u>
3. My pleasures are <u>in God</u>.

The bottom line is this. We were created that we might know God, be satisfied by God, and please & glorify Him!

Song: "I Was Made to Praise the Lord."

We were made for God:

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made **<u>all *things* for himself</u>**

Isaiah 43:21 This people have I formed **<u>for myself</u>**; they shall shew forth my praise.

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and **<u>to him, *are* all things</u>**: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

We were created and redeemed to bring pleasure to God:

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and <u>for thy pleasure</u> [for Thy desire] ***they are and were created.***

God created all things for himself.

Romans 11:36
For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.

"The prayer of the upright is His delight" (Prov. 15:8)

God created man (and all of creation) to bring pleasure to Himself (We accomplish his by fulfilling His will - I Th. 5:18)

Why please God? It's not that there is some emotion in God that needs to be satisfied; but when we speak of pleasing God, we speak of fulfillment of His will and desire.

All creation exists presently ("they are" - present tense) to fulfill God's desires.

Make this your goal!

If the heavens declare God's glory (Ps. 19:1), why shouldn't God's people?

Cp. Triumphal Entry (Lk. 19:37-40) - "The stones would immediately cry out"

Ps. 50:23 - "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me."

Heb. 13:15 - "The sacrifice of praise"

Colossians 1:16 For by him [Christ] ***were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:***

Jesus created everything.

1) All beings and things "in heavens and in earth"
2) All that is material and immaterial
3) All laws, governing authorities and powers

"In Heaven" - Jesus created the angelic realm (the host of angels including Michael and Gabriel; the cherubim and seraphim, etc.)

"In earth" - everything from the Swiss Alps to the Islands of Hawaii; every kind of plant, tree, fruit, vegetable; every animal, fish, reptile and insect. And the crown of His creation - mankind - was made by and for Jesus Christ.
No wonder the elements obeyed His voice; and the demons trembled in His presence and respected Him. He is LORD of all, Creator of all!

It does not matter where it is (location); or what it is (essence); or how it is ("the powers that be") -- Jesus made it all.

The powers that be are ordained of God (Rom. 13:1) particularly of Jesus Christ!

"By ("dia") Him and for ("eis") him" - Christ is the beginner and benefactor of creation; He is its source and goal. He did it, and is to be glorified by it. He is Creation's author and finisher. He is the architect and owner!

You were created by Jesus and for Jesus.

He made you for Himself; to glorify Him, to live for Him.

Although not perfect, several Bible heroes had a testimony of pleasing God.

Hebrews 11:5 By faith **Enoch** was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

The ultimate example of pleasing God: JESUS

--At His baptism

Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

--At the Mount of Transfiguration

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

What Pleases God?

The Work of His Son: Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand
Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

1. God is pleased by our adoption as children

Psalms 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

2. God is pleased by our deep, reverential respect for Him

Psalms 147:11 The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

3. God is pleased by our spiritual understanding of His plan

Ephesians 1:9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:

4. God is pleased by the uprightness of heart

1 Chronicles 29:17 I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

5. God is pleased by the public proclamation of His Gospel (preaching pleases God)

He is pleased to save men by preaching.

1 Corinthians 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

6. God is pleased by <u>obedience</u> to parental authority

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is <u>well pleasing</u> unto the Lord.

7. God is pleased by a practice which matches with our position

Colossians 1:10 That ye might <u>walk worthy</u> of the Lord unto all <u>pleasing</u>, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

8. God is pleased by our <u>obedience</u> to His Word

1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are <u>pleasing</u> in his sight.

9. God is pleased by every church member fulfilling his/her role in the Body

1 Corinthians 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath <u>pleased him</u>.

10. God is pleased by our <u>sacrificial giving</u>

Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is <u>well</u> <u>pleased</u>.

CONCLUSION:

> Christian hedonism is a controversial Christian doctrine current in some evangelical circles, particularly those of the Reformed tradition. The term was coined by Reformed Baptist pastor John Piper in his 1986 book Desiring God. Piper summarizes this philosophy of the Christian life as "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him." (Wickipedia, “Hedonism”)

“Proving what is acceptable (well-pleasing) unto the Lord”

Ask yourself a Question:
Is God pleased with my conduct,
attitudes,
speech,
dress,
entertainment/amusements, music, TV,
my relationships,
my present service for Him?