



The Resolved Church

P.O. BOX 16714 • San Diego, CA 92176 • (619) 393-1990 • www.theresolved.com

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Defining and Defending Hedonism

"The story of the happy God and His happy people"

He-don-ism (n)

"a way of life that holds pleasure or happiness as the highest good or the source of moral values."

G-o-d (n)

"the ground or the source of morality."

I. God's hedonism

- A. God delights in himself above all things because in him exists and emanates all perfect qualities. God is a happy God.
- B. As being the one and only being who is truly that perfect and glorious and happy, it would be wrong for God not to command everyone everywhere to find their happiness in Him.
- C. The goal of life is to find happiness in God, this is what it means to worship & glorify God.

II. Scripture

A. God's Delight in Himself

Psalm 135:6 "All that the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the depths."

Psalm 115:1-3 "Not to us O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?' Our God is in the heaven; All that He pleases, He does."

Isaiah 46:9-10 "I am God and there is no other; I am God and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet undone, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my pleasure.'"

B. Our Delight in God

Psalm 16:11 "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is good."

Isaiah 48:11 "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another."

Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

1 Corinthians 10:31 "So then, whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do everything for the glory of God."

III. Godly Men

A. Jonathan Edwards

"God glorifies himself toward the creatures in two ways: by appearing to their understanding and in communicating himself to their hearts, and in their rejoicing and delighting in, and enjoying, the manifestations which he makes of himself. God is glorified not only by his glory's being seen, but by its being rejoiced in. when those that see it delight in it, God is more glorified than if they only see it. he that testifies his idea of God glory doesn't glorify God so much as he that testifies also his approbation of it and his delight in it"

B. Blaisé Pascal

"All men seek happiness. this is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended to in different views. The will never takes the least step

but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves.”

“There was once in man a true happiness of which now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present. But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God himself.”

C. C.S. Lewis

“Our Lord finds our desires not too strong but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us...we are far too easily pleased.”

“The most obvious fact about praise – whether of God or anything, should be seen in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honor. I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise. The world rings with praise – lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game... I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation...God is the all satisfying object.”

D. John Piper

“The pleasure Christian Hedonism seeks is the pleasure which is in God himself. He is the end of our search, not the means to some further end. Christian Hedonism does not reduce God to a key that unlocks a treasure chest of gold and silver. Rather it seeks to transform the heart so that “the Almighty will be your gold and choice silver to you (Job 22:25).”

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him...Joy is not a mere option alongside worship. It is an essential component of worship.”

E. Justin Bragg

“If your life is not an attempt to bring great glory to God, then run away now, if the overriding reason behind your union is not found in the desire to worship God it will fail. We must pursue joy in God if we are to glorify him as the surpassing valuable reality in the universe.”

“The alleged Christian value of duty and grinding out love for God because we are supposed to is not the description of the way that God is glorified. God is God-centered. We honor him by being God-centered. The greatest honor that we can bring him is finding our happiness in Him.”

Suggested Reading:

Edwards, Jonathan. "Religious Affections"

Lewis, C.S. "The Weight of Glory"

Pascal, Blaise. "Penses"

Piper, John. "Desiring God"

Piper, John. "The Pleasures of God"

Piper, John. "When I Don't Desire God: How to Fight for Joy"

Storms, Sam. "Pleasures Evermore"