



**Appropriating The Happiness
That Is In You**

Series Overview

The beatitudes is a list of attitudes prescribed by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount that are designed to build on one another to lead a Christian to true joy in Christ.

The attitudes are:

Being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meekness, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemaking, and willingness to be persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Only Christians that “climb” this superstructure are in a place spiritually to “appropriate the happiness that is in you,” a process that Jesus describes directly after The Beatitudes.

This process of “appropriating the happiness that is in you” similarly builds on itself with the following steps:

By Being Salt, By Being Light, By Being Law Abiding, By Controlling Anger, By Keeping Sex In Marriage, By Shunning Narcissism, By Choosing Wisely, and By Judging Carefully.

Part Five: By Keeping Sex in Marriage

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 5:27-30

Just as all murder begins with unrighteous anger, all adultery starts with obsessing with someone other than your spouse, and this obsession needs to be addressed.

God, as the creator of all of life’s pleasures, created sex as a gift between a husband and a wife in a heterosexual marriage.

In 1 Corinthians 7:2, it is made clear:

But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband.

However, sexuality has been perverted by mankind. Christians must learn to “affair-proof” their marriages. The best way to do this is to not get emotionally hooked, a process that starts with the eye and ends with the heart.

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Jesus is not being literal, but is using Hebraic Hyperbole to illustrate that we need to exercise self-discipline and self-denial.

If there is an area that temptation comes through, avoid it. Heaven and heavenly rewards are far more important than temporary gratification or pleasure, or social stigma of being “prudish” or “off fashioned.”

When Jesus mentions hell in verses 29 and 30, He is not speaking about being saved or lost, but about the Kingdom of Heaven, as He is speaking to His already-saved followers:

All of believer’s and faithfulness will be tested by fire. Those who have served for the sake of Christ will have their works and deeds polished like gold and silver, whereas the ones who have indulged themselves will have their works burned up like straw or hay.

That is why Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:10 to “be careful how you build.”

We cannot live up to the standards Jesus sets forth here. Sin, in any form, is so subtle and deceiving that none of us can deliver ourselves from its clutches.

Jesus wants all people to despair of their own righteousness—and seek His righteousness.

The Lord’s remedy for a sinful heart is a new heart.

Do not make the mistake of lowering God’s standards in order to meet them. Instead come to Christ confessing and repenting. He will cleanse you of unrighteousness.