

## FUSION Q's... The Meaning of Life Part 3:

### Pleasure

#### Discussion Starter...

If there was one thing in the world that you could change, what would it be?

#### Fusion Discussion...

*Pleasure is something that appeals greatly to all of us – and it should! Pleasure is one of God's greatest gifts to humans. But since it is such an amazing gift, it also is in our nature to pursue it instead of God. Consequently, pleasure is also one of the devil's greatest weapons to seduce us into following him rather than God.*

- Q. What is it about pleasure that makes it so appealing?
- Q. Have you ever thought of pleasure as being a gift from God?
- Q. Explain how pleasure can be both a good thing and a bad thing.

#### Examine what the bible says about pleasure... Read James 4:1-8a

*The Bible is clear that pleasure in and of itself is not wrong... it is a good gift from God. However, we can use pleasure to glorify God by using it the way he has intended it to be used or we can pervert the gift and use it outside of how God intended it to be used. This is what James is getting at in this passage. Instead of pursuing God and thinking of others first, the people were pursuing selfish pleasure and only thinking about themselves.*

- Q. What does James say is the reason we have quarrels and fights?
- Q. Why is pursuing your own pleasures evil?
- Q. Does following Jesus mean you can't have pleasure?

- Q. How do you know if you are putting pleasure before God?
- Q. What can you do to make sure God and others come before your own pleasures?
- Q. What does God promise for those who resist the devil?

### Bible Passages for Discussion

#### James 4:1-8a (p.736)

<sup>1</sup> What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. <sup>3</sup> And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

<sup>4</sup> You adulterers!<sup>[a]</sup> Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy?<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>6</sup> But he gives us even more grace to stand against such evil desires. As the Scriptures say,

“God opposes the proud  
but favors the humble.”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>7</sup> So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come close to God, and God will come close to you.