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## SHIFT: ReThinking Your Parenting

Rethinking the Pursuit of Happiness vs. the Pursuit of Holiness

### 1. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS \_\_\_\_\_, RARELY PRODUCES HAPPINESS

Ecclesiastes 2:4–11 (HCSB)

*I increased my achievements. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. 5 I made gardens and parks for myself and planted every kind of fruit tree in them. 6 I constructed reservoirs of water for myself from which to irrigate a grove of flourishing trees. 7 I acquired male and female servants and had slaves who were born in my house. I also owned many herds of cattle and flocks, more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. 8 I also amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I gathered male and female singers for myself, and many concubines, the delights of men. 9 So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; my wisdom also remained with me. 10 All that my eyes desired, I did not deny them. I did not refuse myself any pleasure, for I took pleasure in all my struggles. This was my reward for all my struggles. 11 When I considered all that I had accomplished and what I had labored to achieve, I found everything to be futile and a pursuit of the wind. There was nothing to be gained under the sun.*

#### **What are you teaching your children about happiness?**

- You can go after \_\_\_\_\_ the world has to offer and still not be happy.
- The pure pursuit of happiness eventually becomes a dead-end road.
- When the goal is happiness, holiness is \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS \_\_\_\_\_ HAPPINESS

Ecclesiastes 2:24–26 (HCSB)

*There is nothing better for man than to eat, drink, and enjoy his work. I have seen that even this is from God's hand, 25 because who can eat and who can enjoy life apart from Him? 26 For to the man who is pleasing in His sight, He gives wisdom,*

*knowledge, and joy, but to the sinner He gives the task of gathering and accumulating in order to give to the one who is pleasing in God's sight. This too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.*

#### **What are you teaching your children about holiness?**

- The pursuit of holiness means to pursue the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- Nothing we do has meaning apart from God.
- When we go after holiness, we find \_\_\_\_\_ is better than happiness.

Matthew 6:33 (HCSB)

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.*

### 3. LEAVE THE WORLD'S PLAN OF HAPPINESS FOR GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ PLAN FOR HOLINESS

1 Peter 1:13–16 (HCSB)

*Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be serious and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. 15 But as the One who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; 16 for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.*

Romans 12:1–2 (HCSB)

*Therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.*

#### **What are you teaching your children about the steps to holiness?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to pursue God and His holiness.
2. Understand that holiness can only arrive by grace, not our efforts.
3. Choose \_\_\_\_\_ to His ways over the world's ways.
4. Resolve to be holy in all that you do.