

“What The Bible Says About Laughter”

Lesson Text: **Ecclesiastes 3:1-4.**

I. What Is Laughter?

- **Laughter:** The act or sound of laughing, often associated with joy and delight, yet occasionally linked with ridicule and scorn. (Dictionary Of Bible Themes).
- God Created Laughter As An Emotion For Man To Enjoy In All Things Wholesome & Pure.
- The Bible Says, Even God Laughs- **Psalm 37:12-13; Proverbs 1:24-27 (See Verse 22).**
- **Ecclesiastes 2:1-2.**
- Laughter Is Often Connected To Rejoicing- **Psalm 126:1-3; Proverbs 15:13; 17:22.**
- Laughter Is Often Connected To Feasting- **Ecclesiastes 10:19; Proverbs 15:15.**

II. The Good Sense Of Laughter.

- Only Listen And Think Of Clean, Wholesome Words- **Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 4:29.**
 - Only Tell Clean Jokes To Others- Remember: **Matthew 5:13-16.**
 - Listen To Clean Comedians. - Watch Clean Comedy On TV Or In Movies.
- Laughter Is Good At The Proper Time- **Ecclesiastes 3:4.**
 - Life Is Not All Laughing.
 - When We Go To A Funeral, Laughter May Be Inappropriate. **Ecclesiastes 7:3**
 - When Serious Matters Are Discussed, Laughter May Be Inappropriate.
 - When The Gospel Is Being Preached Or Taught, Laughter May Also Be Inappropriate.
 - But Very Well Be Appropriate At Weddings, Baby Showers, And Other Celebrations!
 - Humor About The Ironies And Other Funny Moments In Life.
- We Must Exercise Self-Control When It Comes To Laughter.
 - The Times Laughter Must Be Controlled Or Avoided Altogether Takes Self-Control.
 - Certain Topics Must Not Used For Getting A Laugh.
 - Bedroom Talk, Dirty Jokes, Innuendos, Racial Slurs, Derogatory Jokes That Hurt Others.
 - For Humor And Laughter To Stay Clean, We Must Exercise Restraint & Show Respect.

III. The Bad Sense Of Laughter.

- Bad Laughter Is About Vulgar Talk & Perverted Themes. **Ephesians 5:1-4; vs. 5-7.**
 - **Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)** *"Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."*
 - The World Doesn't Care About Purity Or Holiness, But Christians Must Care!
 - **2 Corinthians 6:17 – 7:1; 2 Peter 1:4.**
- When Laughter Is Used As A Weapon.
 - When It Is Used To Scorn, Scoff At, Deride, Mock, Belittle, Or Disrespect Others.
 - **Colossians 3:8**, Laughter Can Be Abusive Speech.
 - Making Fun Of Different Races Or Ethnicities, Or Classes.... Is Not Appropriate.
- Scorning & Scoffing Are Often Used By Unbelievers To Mock Those Who Believe.
 - **2 Kings 2:23-24**- Elisha Was Mocked By Some Young Men From The City.
 - **Jeremiah 20:7-11.** Jeremiah Was Mocked And Laughed At For The Word's Sake.
 - **Luke 16:14; Mark 15:29-31.** The Times Even Jesus Was Mocked!
 - **Acts 17: 30-32**- Paul Was Mocked For Preaching About The Resurrection.
- The Danger: When Laughter Can Keep Us From Being Saved.
 - When We Mock & Laugh At Sin- **Proverbs 14:9; James 4:9.**
 - When We Fail To Seek Salvation From God- **Genesis 19:14; 2 Peter 3:1-10.**