

Maximum Living!

Selected Passages from Ecclesiastes
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- Thanksgiving marks the beginning of 'Party Time'
- The "emptiness" of living for pleasure
- The ultimate "Party Animal" -- Solomon

Keys to Maximum Living

A. Relax: *God is in control*

1. Must factor God into the equation of life. Eccl. 2:24-26
2. God's in control of the events and circumstances of life
3. Result: **Stress-Free, Relaxed Living** . 3:12-13

B. Enjoy: *Life is a Gift from God*

1. For many, life is a "Grind to be endured"
2. Life is a gift from God to be enjoyed
 - a. The things of life and the ability to enjoy them comes from God
3:12-13; 5:18-20; 6:1-2
 - b. Life is not something we "make" for ourselves.
 - c. Life is not something we "deserve"
3. Be content with what God has given you.
4. Results: **Regret-Free Living** . 5:20

C. Balance: *Avoid the Extremes out of the Fear of God*

1. Avoid the extreme of being "overly righteous or wise" -- 7:16-18
 - a. "Self-righteous, superpious, legalistic"
 - b. Two truths that are appauling to the self-righteous
 - 1) All are sinners-- 7:20
 - 2) All are guilty of the same sins-- 7:21-22
2. Avoid the extreme of being "overly wicked or foolish" -- 7:17
3. Seek the "Balance"-- v. 18
4. Balance the "Partying" with the truth of Accountability to God. 11:9
5. Results: **Guilt-Free Living**-- 11:10
 - a. False guilt: Accept and Enjoy what God allows!
 - b. True guilt: Repent and Do what God commands!