

## FOR YOUR PROTECTION

Proverbs 4:10-13 ... "Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go: keep her, for she is your life."

Many times, I have heard people claim they reject Christ because of their belief that Christians do not have fun. I have also heard it said there are too many rules that Christians have to follow, or they do not want to be controlled by someone else. If any of those claims were accurate, I would probably agree with them. But God does not control us. He gives us free choice to do what we please, if we are willing to accept the consequences. And, the Bible's warnings about sin do not constitute rules. Instead, those warnings exist to keep us safe and in a loving relationship with our Creator.

I do not know of anyone who has more fun than Christians because the fun we have hurts no one, is not self-destructive, is not selfish, desires the best for our friends, brings healthy joy to others, and does not include immoral or sinful exploits that hurt ourselves or others. The fun that Christians enjoy does not cripple reputations, lead others down dark paths of sin, or cause regret and remorse. And, the fun we enjoy does not lead to hell. Although it is possible for an unbeliever to have safe, moral and unselfish fun, they are still headed for an eternity in the absence of God if they reject Christ.

If "fun" for you is getting drunk, racing your motorcycle and endangering others, using drugs, making girls pregnant, or beating your children, then you simply have the wrong definition of fun. What you are doing instead is criminal, hateful, selfish, immoral and/or mean. If you feel that by pushing God away, you are merely creating your own little space to live in and enjoy, you are wrong. You are really running into the open arms of Satan. There is no neutral territory between God and Satan in which you can exist and live by your own rules. You were born into a universe that has only two kingdoms: God's and Satan's. You have no choice but to either live according to God's standards, or live under Satan's evil authority. There are no other alternatives. Any kingdom you think you can create apart from God, is actually within Satan's kingdom, which will soon go down in flames...literally.

There are many important reasons for being a Christian, which we speak of often. However, God is also practical. The warnings he gives you, the blessings he desires to provide you, and the promises he has made to you, are designed to keep you safe, at peace and supplied with what you need to live. Satan provides you with no protection, safety, or peace. He does not provide you with what you need to live, and great suffering awaits you for following him.

The guidelines for life that you find in the Bible, are not there to oppress you; they are there for your protection.

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