

HUMOR IN THE HOME ECC. 2:24, 3:10-14; 5:18-19

No Humor	Healthy Humor	Wrong kind of humor
They don't get humor	Humor flows from the heart	They use humor to hurt / put people down
The question: What did you mean by that? They don't understand the humor!	Families filled with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Knick knacks ➤ Repartee ➤ Banter ➤ Funny stories 	The question (again): What did you mean by that? They are assuming that everyone is trying to hurt them
Just joking! Just kidding! I'm sorry	No explanation given / needed → it is a joke	Mean spirited and obvious
Clueless among humor → <u>almost perpetually</u> off	Humor as part of life & flowing from life	Almost all humor revolves around jokes that are sexual Everything is a double entendre - filthy humor. <u>Ephesians 5:4</u> Neither filthiness (αἰσχρότης), nor foolish talking (μωρολογία), nor jesting (εὐτραπελία), which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks (εὐχαριστία). <u>Ephesians 4:29</u> Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
No self-deprecating humor They don't get "what " you said!	Self-deprecating humor is common – we <u>don't</u> take self too	No self-deprecating humor They don't get "why" you would say it!

My question: Can a merry heart be learned? If so how?

I. Enjoy your life!

Ecclesiastes 2:24 There is nothing better for a man, **than that he should eat and drink**, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:12 I know that there is no good in them, **but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.** Ecclesiastes 3:13 **And also that every man should eat and drink**, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: **it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink**, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. Ecclesiastes 5:19 Every

man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God.

I am 100% against wine tasting but I am 100% for the concept of tasting / experiencing life!

Tasting food	Tasting water	Slowing down
Smelling flowers	Looking at moons	Savoring aromas
Listening to birds	Experiencing sunsets	Feeling the snow
Smelling rain	Touching a child	Sharing an experience

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye **eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Proverbs 15:15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Equation:

God's goodness

The God-given ability to enjoy it

A merry heart = how we look at life

The instinctive response: smile

Enjoying life in the mundane, the day-to-day, in the details...!

II. Enjoy your labor!

Ecclesiastes 2:24 There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, **and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour.** This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 3:13 And also that every man should eat and drink, **and enjoy the good of all his labour,** it is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, **and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life,** which God giveth him: for it is his portion. **Ecclesiastes 5:19** Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, **and to rejoice in his labour;** this is the gift of God.

CHS on labor:

Work is always healthier for us than idleness; it is always better to wear out shoes than sheets.

There's no shame about any honest calling; don't be afraid of soiling your hands, there's plenty of soap to be had.

God sends every bird its food, but he does not throw it into the nest: he gives us our daily bread, but it is through our own labour.

To live a life of comparative ease and enjoyment shames me. To work to weariness seems nothing. After all, what are we doing compared with what he has done?

Man was not made for an idle life, labour is evidently his proper condition. Even when man was perfect he was placed in the garden, not to admire its flowers, but to keep it and to dress it. If he needed to work when he was perfect, much more does he require the discipline of labour now that he is fallen.

Amongst the sanitary and salutary regulations of the moral universe there is none much better than this—that men must work.

The religion of mere brain and jaw does not amount to much. We want the religion of hands and feet.

God sent the manna from heaven; but the people had to go out every morning, and get it in; and when they had gathered it, we read that they used to beat it in mortars, or grind it in mills, and bake it in pans, and make it into cakes. God is not the patron of idleness.

Simple thoughts:

- **I was made to work**
- **I was made for specific work**
- **I find meaning, purpose & satisfaction doing that work!**

III. Enjoy the Lord!

Ecclesiastes 2:24 There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. **This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.**

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time.... **Ecclesiastes 3:13** And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, **it is the gift of God.**

Ecclesiastes 5:18 Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, **which God giveth him:** for it is his portion. **Ecclesiastes 5:19** Every man also **to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof,** and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; **this is the gift of God.**