

YOU CAN LEARN HOW TO BE HAPPY.

Many people think that happiness is simply a matter of luck.

THINGS YOU HAVE TO LEARN IF YOU WANT TO BE HAPPIER:

I. SHIFT THE FOCUS AWAY FROM YOURSELF.

Phil. 2:20-21, “For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own...” (NKJV)

- A. People who are always more interested in pleasing themselves than pleasing other people are unhappy people.
- B. Selfish people are rarely happy people.
- C. Unselfish people are happier people.

II. BECOME SOMEONE THAT PEOPLE TRUST.

- A. If you learn to be trustworthy, reliable, consistent, dependable, and you develop those qualities in life, you're going to be a whole lot happier than people who aren't trustworthy.

III. LEARN HOW TO WORK WELL WITH OTHERS.

If you want your kids or grandkids to be happy, they've got to learn:

To switch the focus away from themselves.

To be unselfish.

To be trustworthy.

- A. Learn how to work well with others by being a team player.

What do you need to learn in order to work with other people? The Bible says that you need to learn two things:

1. First, learn to cooperate.

- a. Paul gives us Timothy as a person who is focused on the well-being of others more than himself and then:
- b. Paul gives Epaphroditus as an example of being a team player.

Phil. 2:25, “Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need”; (NKJV)

c. In this passage Paul uses three relational metaphors. They are teamwork terms. He says, my brother, my fellow worker, and my fellow soldier.

d. The Church is a family.

Eph. 2:19, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." (NKJV)

Gal. 6:10, "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (NKJV)

(1.) One hundred thirty-three times in the Bible God uses family terms to refer to the church.

(2.) The church is a job to do.

Matt. 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen." (NKJV)

(3.) The church is to fight. "My fellow soldier."

1 Tim. 3:15, "But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (NKJV)

2. You need to learn to be considerate.

a. Notice in this verse we see two examples of consideration.

(1.) Paul is considerate of his co-worker's concern.

(2.) Epaphroditus is considerate of the concerns of the church members at Philippi.

I Cor. 1:10, "I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: You must get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common." (MSG)

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