

Easy Ways to Wreck Your Life: Let Pleasure Drive You

Stupid means you make the same mistake over and over. **Smart** means you learn from your mistakes. **Genius** means you learn from other peoples' mistakes.

Fear God and **obey** his commands.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 NLT

That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.

Wisdom

Life apart from **God** is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 NLT

These are the words of the Teacher, King David's son, who ruled in Jerusalem. "Everything is **meaningless**," says the Teacher, "**completely meaningless!**"

Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

An easy way to wreck your life: let **pleasure** guide you.

The Futility of **Pleasure**

Ecclesiastes 2:1 NLT

I said to myself, "Come on, let's try **pleasure**. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, **was meaningless**.

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Presented by Pastor David Bellows

Christ's Church of Marion County

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1 Kings 11:1-4 NLT

Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh's daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. The LORD had clearly instructed the people of Israel, "You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods." Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. He had **700 wives** of royal birth and **300 concubines**. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the LORD. In Solomon's old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the LORD his God, as his father, David, had been.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 NLT

Live happily with the woman you love through all the meaningless days of life that God has given you under the sun. The wife God gives you is your reward for all your earthly toil.

Ecclesiastes 2:2 NLT

So I said, "**Laughter** is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?"

Ecclesiastes 2:3 NLT

After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with **wine**. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 NLT

I also tried to find meaning by building **huge homes** for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves.

Ecclesiastes 2:7-8 NLT

I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large **herds and flocks**, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. I collected great sums of **silver and gold**, the **treasure** of many kings and provinces. I hired **wonderful singers**, both men and women, and had many **beautiful concubines**. I had **everything** a man could desire!

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Picture of Deione Sanders

“If your dream is all about you, there’s something wrong with your dream.”

“Everything I touched turned to gold. But inside, I was broken and totally defeated. I remember sitting at the back of the practice field one afternoon, away from everybody, and tears were running down my face. I was saying to myself, this is so meaningless. I’m so unhappy. We’re winning every week and I’m playing great, but I’m not happy. I tried everything. Parties, women, buying expensive jewelry and gadgets, and nothing helped. There was no peace. I had everything the world has to offer, but no peace, no joy, just emptiness inside. The Bible describes it in the first chapter of Ecclesiastes as chasing after the wind, and that’s exactly what it was like.”

Deione Sanders

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Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 NLT

So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so **meaningless—like chasing the wind**. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

“If only.....”

“When _____ happens, then I will have a life.”

“When we are pursuing the things that don’t have the power to make us happy, we are ignoring the ones that do.” Dr. Henry Cloud