**God is not a kill-joy.**

That is what I used to think before I got to know him. I’ve know many others who believed the same thing.

I used to think that God wanted to rob me of fun, pleasure and all that is enjoyable. I assumed he wanted to suck all the juice, the joy out of my life and I would have to live an austere life as a monk in a monastic kind of world. I assumed life would be boring, in black and white with no color, odorless and tasteless.

Then I finally figured it out. Thankfully. Man, did I ever have it wrong. I learned the truth. I was living under a cloud of misunderstanding, confusion and incorrect thinking. It was all a deception and a lie.

I guess you could say it depends what you are looking for in life.

If you believe this life is all there is, that when you die you are dead as a dog then you might as well go for all the gusto and pleasure you can find in every 24 hour day you have left.

If that is the case, then all relationships and issues like faithfulness or commitment will be defined by who you think can offer you the most pleasure, satisfaction, happiness, fun, etc. at any given moment in your life. “As long as you deliver I might stay around.” When all that diminishes or stops, when others stop delivering what you want then you’ll be moving on, ‘going fishing’, looking for the next best source of those things you want.

Or, if it is all ‘good’ with ONE, why not enjoy all of the above with 2 or 3 or more? Why limit yourself? It isn’t about others. It is about you. And it is about pleasure not limits. Limits then becomes a ‘four letter word’. Limit’s is redefined to saying I’m not limiting myself to you alone, or to you if you stop delivering what I want, when I want it, how I want it, how often I want it, etc. Actually I don’t want limits imposing or keeping me from getting what I want.

Actually God agrees with that sentiment.

Paul wrote of that in [**1 Corinthians 15:32**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians+15:32&version=NIV) *If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained****? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”***

He was saying that if there is no life after this one, if we have nothing but ‘human hopes (that is to have NO hope) we might as well go for the gusto, let us eat and drink because tomorrow, when we die it is ALL over.

But Paul knew there was more for those who choose it.

And what we have to choose is whether to live in relationship with God or not.

It is whether I want to live with Him or without Him. And to chose to live with him is NOT to choose a monastic, colorless, tasteless, dull and boring life. It just isn’t so.

There are descriptions of those who live as if there is no tomorrow or life after death in the Bible.

Ephesians 4:18-19 describes those who reject God for ‘freedom’. It says they

* Are darkened in their understanding
* Separated from the life of God because of their ignorance
* That is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.
* Having lost all sensitivity
* They have given themselves over to sensuality
* So as to indulge in every kind of impurity
* With a continual lust for more.

II Peter 2 gives a much longer list. See it at the end of this paper.

Is this the life I want? Would it be loving of God to say nothing about these consequences, to warn us of choosing ‘freedom’ over a relationship with him? That would not be very loving for sure. I’m grateful he warns me. The alternative route is cold, ugly and deadly.

The issue with God is that it really is all about living in relationship with Him. That is why he created us in the first place.

Proverbs 8:36 makes an interesting statement. *“Whoever fails to find me harms himself. And all who hate me love death.”* To find and accept a relationship with God is a blessing to ourselves. It is helpful, beneficial and healing. To reject Him, to hate Him, means we love death in place of living with Him now and for eternity.

Romans 5:11 LB *“Now we rejoice in our* ***wonderful new relationship with God****-all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins-****making us friends of God****.”*

God is NOT a kill joy, but He is faithful in doing what is in our best interest.

God limits himself for our best interest. A hedonist doesn’t understand the idea of limiting oneself for the best interest of others. They only think about and do what is for their own best interest.

The hedonist’s only limit is NOT limiting himself from doing what he wants. Anything that puts limits on oneself is bad. He wants freedom to do what he wants, when he wants, how he wants, how often he wants, where ever he wants and with whomever he wants.

But God is interested in what is good for our best interest, what will benefit and help us in life.

So rather than being a Kill Joy, God is

1. He is a protector
2. He is our Father
3. He is our Friend
4. He is our rescuer
5. He is our forgiver
6. He is faithful
7. He is our guide.
8. He want to bless, enrich, and shower us with his gifts.

And what Friend or Father wouldn’t protect their kids from that which is dangerous, harmful, damaging, etc.

Think of all the things parents say to warn their kids; here is a short sample:

“Son, don’t play in the fire, don’t eat so much candy, don’t run into the street for the ball without looking both ways, don’t eat or drink anything with a skull and crossbones on the container, don’t take drugs, don’t stick your finger in the socket, don’t pick your nose in public and don’t eat your buggers, don’t watch so much TV, don’t steal, don’t swear, don’t be sarcastic or rude to people, don’t bully others, don’t run holding scissors or a knife pointed toward you, don’t be so lazy, don’t put pins in your mouth, don’t run in the store, don’t dive head first in the shallow end, don’t hang out with that kid, don’t drive too fast, you can’t date him/her, you can’t go ‘there’.”

Now is a parent a ‘kill joy’ for trying to warn their kids of all the dangers in life. No. Now at the moment the kid might think so. But those who don’t listen and apply it will normally suffer bad consequences. The parents are trying to protect their kids and save them from unnecessary pain and suffering. **To not warn them of potential danger and damage would be irresponsible, cruel and unloving**.

 And how many kids rebel at the LIMITATIONS their parents put on them.

 It is hard being a parent.

 There are many tough decisions a parent has to make for their kids.

It is tough disciplining your kids, teaching them and at time needed, protective restrictions in their life.

Parents want to be loved, liked, trusted and accepted by their kids too.

The goal of a healthy parent is not to ROB THEIR KIDS OF SOMETHING.

They want the best for them.

 Our earthly parents aren’t perfect and don’t’ understand all, but God does.

 Hebrews 10*:* ***9****Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!****10****They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best;* ***but God disciplines us for our good****, in order that we may share in his holiness.*

 We need to learn to trust him.

 One of the greatest teachers of all in life is facing the natural consequences of our choices. And oh, they can be a harsh teacher. Now there is a way to avoid the bad or negative consequences of bad decisions. It starts with trusting someone who is wise and trustworthy. In our case that would be God.

In the story that Jesus told of what is often known as the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) we see how God operates. He ‘raises’ us, teaches us, gives us a model, a conscience but he also gives us a free will. In the story the younger brother thinks he is missing out on something in life staying on the farm. So he takes his inheritance and moves to the city where he thinks he has freedom to do what he wants and to pursue the GOOD LIFE.

The interesting thing in this story is that apparently the father let him go. He had taught him how to live. The son rejected it. So the father decided it was time for the son to see that there are consequences for bad choices. Oh the son must have had some really FUN times in the city, for a while. But then it all hit the fan. The party was over. It ended. During this time the father didn’t go off to the city to beg the son to come home. He let him suffer the natural consequences of his bad choices. And when he ‘came to his senses’ he went home. The GOOD LIFE was there, with his father, family and friends. It was all about relationship. He had taken that for granted and miss it.

So God Is Not a Kill Joy. He is a joy giver, protector.

He is out to save us, protect us and lead us down healthy paths, not self destructive paths.

It is up to us whether we trust him or not.

He is trustworthy.

He will teach us. Our experiences in trusting Him and following His word will show us.

*Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

When we renew our way of thinking, when we trust God and his ways and his will, and we live that way and ‘test’ it, we will be transformed and experience what is good and pleasing to us. His ways, his will is perfect. Our ways are corrupt and destructive.

We are talking about RELATIONSHIP.

I wrote a book years ago. I lost the working manuscript but the title was already burned in my brain.

The title was

**2 Words that will make or break any relationship**

The two words are “***you’re important***.”

When we commit ourselves to a healthy relationship we need to communicate that the other is the most important thing in our life. That is what we tell them. Now we need to live it out.

It is the same with God.

When I become a follower of Jesus, because of the importance of the relationship I have with him, I seek to avoid anything that will replace him or damage the relationship I have with him.

There are many ways we can send the “You’re Not Important” message. It is for the most part “living the way I want to” and ignoring the wants, wishes and will of God.

Trusting him and obeying him are the only ways I can show him that he really is the MOST important one in my life.

God wants to save us from pain, suffering, disappointment, disillusionment, emptiness, loneliness, etc.

He wants us to be in relationship with him and being in relationship with him is a billion times better than all the shallow, temporary, plastic ‘fun’ the world can offer me.

In Hebrews 10:24-27 it says the following about Moses:

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter.****25****He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.****26He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward****.****27****By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.*

He understood. He got it. As the son of Pharaoh’s daughter he could ‘have all the world could offer him’. Riches, women, wine, houses, horses, vacations, power, status, etc.

Sin brings pain and suffering. God warns us of the consequences of sin so we can avoid the pain and suffering. That doesn’t make him a KILL JOY. That makes him my loving Father and Savior.

II Peter 2 gives us warnings of those who offer ‘freedom’ that really turns out to be slavery and destruction. They are the KILL JOYS. Their supposed freedom and fun end in death. Their so called freedom kills. Their freedom ends up with your EATING YOUR OWN VOMIT! Look at the descriptions of them and their life below. It is NOT a life of freedom but slavery.

**2**But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. **They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves**. **2**Many will follow their **depraved conduct** and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. **3**In their greed these teachers **will exploit you with fabricated stories**. Their **condemnation** has long been **hanging over them**, and their **destruction** has not been sleeping.

**4**For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; **5**if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; **6**if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; **7**and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless **8**(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— **9**if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to **hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment**.**10**This is **especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.**

**Bold and arrogant**, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; **11**yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.**12**But these people **blaspheme in matters they do not understand**. They are **like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish.**

**13They will be paid back with harm** for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are **blots and blemishes**, **reveling in their pleasures** while they feast with you. **14**With **eyes full of adultery**, they **never stop sinning**; they **seduce the unstable**; they are **experts in greed**—an **accursed brood**! **15**They **have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam** son of Bezer,who **loved the wages of wickednes**s. **16**But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—an animal without speech—who spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness.

**17**These people are **springs without water and mists driven by a storm**. **Blackest darkness is reserved for them**. **18**For **they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of the flesh, they entice people** who are just escaping from those who live in error. **19They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.**” **20**If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. **21**It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. **22**Of them the proverbs are true: **“A dog returns to its vomit**”and, “A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud.”

 **GOD IS NOT A KILL JOY**