The Christian and His Leisure Time
Mark 6:31

Introduction:
A. Jesus recognized that his disciples needed some leisure time away from the stress of work.
   1. Some said, he was telling them “come apart”, before ye “fall apart.”
   2. Caring for one’s body is fundamental to Christ’s teaching (cf. Col. 2:23; Eph. 5:28-29 asv, niv)
   3. A “workaholic” is not doing himself, his family nor his Lord right.
B. Our society has no shortage of ways and places to spend one’s leisure time.
   1. One’s choice of leisure depends a great deal on his/her personal taste.
   2. One’s choice of leisure should take into account the wholesomeness its place and activities.
C. Our Lord does not leave us a list of things permitted or forbidden to occupy our leisure time.
   1. He does leave us principles to be applied to all our time – leisure or otherwise.
   2. He give us a mind capable applying these principles to life – if we will use it.
D. There are certain tests that we should apply when making our choices for our leisure time.

Discussion:
I. Will it Violate Any Specific Prohibition of God’s Word?
   A. There are certain things a Christian cannot do and go to heaven (cf. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-10)
   B. Most Christians can see the need to avoid the most blatant of these – but not the “respectable”
      1. “Lasciviousness” – “wanton (acts or) manners , as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” (Thayer) – Dance, porno, petting.
      2. “Reveling” – “drinking parties”; “procession of half-drunken..fellows” (Thayer)
      3. Immodest dress (1 Tim. 2:9) – a sign of a loss of shamefastness – street or recreation attire.
II. Will it Potentially Lead Another to Sin?
   A. Jesus considers it a terrible thing to cause sin in another (Luke 17:1-2 cf. niv)
   B. Innocent things, under certain conditions, can lead others to sin (Rom. 14:20-21; 1 Cor. 8:12-13)
   C. People often consider too lightly the danger of causing another to sin.
      1. Often ignore danger of being where unwholesome activity is present (1 Cor. 8:10).
      2. Young people often unaware of how easily their dress and actions can cause sin (cf. Matt. 5:28)
      3. Parents often too naive about the maturity of their children – permit offensive dress and actions.
      4. Many are aware of the effect on others – but could care less as long as it gives them pleasure.
III. Will it Interfere with Higher Obligations? (Cf. Matt. 6:33)
   A. Will it interfere with my family obligations? (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8).
   B. Will it interfere with my moral obligations? – Paying debts, caring for others, etc.
   C. Will it interfere with my spiritual service – missing services, praying, teaching gospel, giving.
IV. Will it Weaken Resistance to Sin?
   A. Herod’s party is a good example of this (Mk. 6:19, 20, 26).
   B. Best way to avoid sin is to avoid situations where it could happen.
      1. “One-thing-led-to-another” situations have cause many heartaches.
      2. “I-didn’t-mean-to-go-that-far” situations have ruined many lives.
      3. “I-will-never-do-it” situations can change under pressure of moment – like Peter.

Conclusion:
A. There many wholesome things to do and places to go for Christians – even games, sports, parties.
   1. Why choose those that are questionable and may violate Biblical principles?
   2. Why not choose those that both good for the body and the soul?
B. One can be godly at work and play and still enjoy life to its fullest.