

(1) Why do the words “Christian Hedonism” sound like a contradiction in terms? What is the fundamental difference between secular or pagan forms of hedonism and the perspective that we are calling “Christian” hedonism?

(2) Have you ever struggled with what seems like the incompatibility of your desire for gladness and joy, on the one hand, and God’s desire for his own glory, on the other? Why would it appear that these two are at odds with each other? What is the solution of Christian Hedonism in understanding both your desire for gladness and God’s desire for glory as being not only compatible but one and the same passion?

(3) What is your reaction when you hear that God places no restraints on the depths of delight in himself that he commands us to pursue? Does this seem right? Does it feel dangerous? Why?

(4) “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” Do you agree? If not, why not? If you do agree, explain the relation between the two halves of this sentence.

(5) If God’s preeminent passion or desire is to magnify or make much of his own glory, how does he not become guilty of the worst imaginable megalomania? How is it that Christian Hedonism argues that God’s commitment to his own glory is the most loving thing he could possibly do for us?