A KILLJOY GOD?

God is not against pleasure!

It’s one thing to have to make that statement to a non-believer, as the very notion of a killjoy God may contribute to their rejection of Him in the first place. But there is also a brand of Christianity that subscribes to this notion. And the lie began in Eden.

In his temptation of Eve, the serpent accuses God of depriving humanity of a positive experience. This notwithstanding that God had created a perfect and beautiful world for them and had also designed a garden home for them on the east side of Eden. (Incidentally, the word Eden means pleasure; Gen. 2:8). A world with no thorns, thistles, pain, or distress was doubtless a sensual paradise.

Then, at the prompting of the serpent, Eve entertained the thought that God may have been depriving humanity of something that would be for their best good. She “saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise” (Gen. 3:6). Based on her independent evaluation, she determined that there was something pleasurable to be found in that which God had prohibited.

To this day, the devil touts the lie that God is decidedly against humanity experiencing pleasure, particularly in the realm of sexuality. The enemy would have us imagine God to be a prude. But nothing could be further from the truth. God created sex and made sure that it would be a pleasurable experience.
Write out Philippians 2:1–11 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you are pressed for time, write out Philippians 2:1–5. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse from Philippians 2:1–11. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

List all the conditions in Eden that would have resulted in the best sexual intimacy that was humanly possible.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex04-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What principles should be applied in determining the form of contraception to employ in Christian family planning?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/sex04-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Song of Solomon 8:4–6
Genesis 2:21–25
Psalm 16:11
1 Timothy 6:17

What other verses come to mind in connection with God’s pleasurable gifts?

Review your memorized verse from Philippians 2:1–11.
Are you comfortable with the notion that God intends for humanity to experience sexual pleasure?

What is Jesus saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Where do you see Jesus in Philippians 2:1–11?
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of Philippians 2:1–11, what are applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are applications you must make in your private life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/sex04-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How does your concept of God include a Being who is light-hearted?

How does the worldly concept of sex and sexuality fundamentally differ from the biblical ideal?

Can the Bible’s ideal for sexual intimacy be reached? Why and how?

What standards are to determine the appropriateness of sexual intimacy?

What factors should be considered when addressing the question of abortion?

What is the difference between pleasure in a holy sense and in unholy sense?

How does this week change or vivify your view of Christ?