

**The Attackers: Capacity Righteousness & True Happiness; Being Copacetic Is the By-Product of Knowing Doctrine, Prov 8:32; 1 Pet 4:12–14; John 15:10–11; Outer & Inner Happiness: Exōterikē Harmonia Produces Esōterikē Harmonia; The Lord’s Happiness & Staying Power on the Cross, Heb 12:2**

### Capacity Righteousness & True Happiness:

1. The three words translated “happy” in English Bibles are the Hebrew **אֲשֵׁר ('esher)** and the Greek **μακάριος (makários)**: “happy,” and **χαίρω (chairō)**: “to rejoice, to be glad.”
2. The Hebrew *'esher* is used figuratively in Proverbs 8:32 which teaches that those who follow His wheel-tracks of righteousness will be happy:
 

**Proverbs 8:32** - “Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for happy [ **אֲשֵׁר ('esher)** ] are they who keep my ways [ **דֶּרֶךְ (derek)**: wheel-tracks of righteousness ].”
3. The Greek words *makários* and *chairō* are found together in 1 Peter 4:12–14 where happiness is the recommended problem-solving device during the most intense of circumstances:
 

**1 Peter 4:12** - Dear friends, stop being shocked by the maximum pressure you face that is coming to you for your benefit, as though some unusual event has caught you off guard.

**v. 13** - But keep on being happy [ **χαίρω (chairō)** ] because you have in common the sufferings of Christ, so even in the revealing of His glory your happineses [ plural of **χαίρω (chairō)** ] may be unalloyed [ **ἀγαλλιάω (agalliáō)**: sharing the happiness of God and Christ ].

**v. 14** - If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed [ plural of the noun **μακάριος (makários)**: **happineses** ], for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you [ the indwelling of the Holy Spirit ].
4. The plan of God for the human race acknowledges this principle: in human history, the sovereignty of God and the free will of man coexist by divine decree.
5. The essence of God contains numerous attributes all of which exist in the status of eternal perfection. From this we conclude that God is not only happy but His happiness is not affected by the failure of His creatures either angelic or human.
6. The key to making this a reality in the soul of the believer is expressed by our Lord at the Last Supper:
 

**John 15:10** - “If [ **3CC** ] you keep My commandments you will remain steadfast in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain steadfast in His love.

**v. 11** - “These things I have communicated to you for the purpose that My inner happiness [ **χαρά (chará)** ] might keep on being in you and your inner happiness might be made complete.
8. We have illustrated the difference between inner and outer happiness in recent studies including *The Copacetic Christian* presented at the 2011 Shreveport Bible Conference:

(1) **ἐξωτερική ἁρμονία (exōterikē harmonía)**: outer harmony and concord with others which produces (2) **ἐσωτερική ἁρμονία (esōterikē harmonía)**: inner harmony of the soul.<sup>1</sup>

9. Note that outer harmony must be accomplished before inner harmony can be achieved which is unalloyed happiness.
10. In other words, you can never be truly happy until you develop *exōterikē harmonía* with others, a relationship with God based on reciprocal love and a relationship with mankind based on unconditional love.
11. When these two tandem devices are achieved, then the soul is freed from all stress factors and unalloyed happiness is the result.
12. *Exōterikē harmonía*, personal love for God and unconditional love for mankind, in association with *esōterikē harmonía*, sharing the happiness of God, were the problem-solving devices used by our Lord on the cross.
13. Because of *exōterikē harmonía* our Lord possessed *esōterikē harmonía*.
14. Because of the impeccability of Jesus' true humanity, His inner harmony of soul was pure and, like gold tried by fire, was unalloyed.
15. This disposition of soul, utilizing these three problem-solving devices, is evident in:

**Hebrews 12:2** -Be concentrating on **Jesus [ His true humanity ]**, the founder and perfecter of our **faith [ mystery doctrine of the Church Age ]**, Who, because of His **exhibited happiness [ χαρά (chará): PSD #9 ]** He **endured the cross [ staying power from the tandem PSDs of personal love for God & unconditional love for man ]**, **disregarding the shame [ of being identified with our sins ]**, and **sat down at the right hand of the throne of God [ session ]**.

16. This verse documents the Lord's staying power on the cross as the combination of virtue love and unalloyed happiness.
17. Since the Lord's prototype spiritual life has been bequeathed to believers in the Church Age, then the same system that provided the Lord His staying power on the cross is the same system that enables us to have staying power in the relentless combat of the Invisible War.
18. It is through testing that our faith is proved genuine. Faith is transitive and requires an object. The object of our faith that is tested is volitional loyalty to our doctrinal inventory.
19. It is from this resource that we grow in grace and enter into the sophisticated spiritual life which is characterized by the final four problem-solving devices: (1) personal love for God and its tandem (2) unconditional love for mankind – *exōterikē harmonía* – produce (3) unalloyed happiness – *esōterikē harmonía* – resulting in (4) occupation with Christ.
20. True happiness occurs when the believer fulfills the plan of God for his life. This happiness is made available by learning the details of that plan revealed only in the Word of God.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from: Steven Pressfield, *Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae* (New York: Doubleday, 1998), 80–81.