

or 50 years ago, when ice cream sundaes were invented took a spoonfull of an ice cream sundae and gave it to an elderly pious woman and said, Here taste this. She tasted it and said immediately O that must be wicked, you musn't touch that because anything that good must be wicked! But many people have that idea about what Christianity is.

But God said, I'm giving you this wonderful place, this park, this garden and all these wonderful things. They are all for your enjoyment, but there is this one which you are not allowed to touch. This one evidence that you will do what I say. You don't have to know the reason, you don't have to understand the details that may be very involved, that may be very simple. It may simply be an indication of your willingness to do what God says even if you don't fully understand it. But God has given us this world for the enjoyment of His people. He wants us to enjoy the world. He has never said you shall not eat of any of the good things of this world. But He wants us to be more interested in doing His will than in enjoying any particular good thing in the world.

I think it is very important we get a correct understanding of God's attitude in these things. There is a common teaching today which I believe is utterly unbiblical which is called the cultural mandate, and it is based upon one sentence, no upon one word in the beginning of Genesis. God said to Adam, Replenish the earth and subdue it. He gave that command to Adam. Replenish, literally, fill up the earth and subdue it. That one word "subdue" is today called the cultural mandate. But you look in any commentary that I have ever seen more than 50 yearsold, and you willnot find that this is a mandate (a command), that it has anything to do with culture, or that it is something that is related to us ~~now~~ today.