



# SERMON NOTES

Sunday, August 22, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

## **“Living by One’s Passions”**

Judges 14

1. Living by one’s passions can get us into trouble.  
(Judges 14:1-4)
  
2. Living by one’s passions creates secret carrying.  
(Judges 14:5-9)
  
3. Living by one’s passions divides families. It does not bring them together. (Judges 14:10-14)

4. Unsatisfied passion leaves anger.  
(Judges 14:19-20)

## Table Talk

- 1) What are ways that even Christians get sucked into the lie that meaning is found in individualism? How is Samson an example of such individualism? (vv. 1-2) Why is living by what one sees or what “looks good” so dangerous? (vv. 1-4) How can verse 4 be misinterpreted to say that all that happens is God’s fault? What is a proper understanding of verse 4?
- 2) How does Samson put his parents in a compromising position? (v. 5) What secret does Samson keep from his parents? Why is that important? (v. 6) What kinds of secrets do people keep in order to “manage” their sin? Why can a small group be helpful toward avoiding that, IF true Christian community develops within a small group? Does Samson have a small group? How might he have benefited from living in a community of devoted followers of the Lord? (vv. 5-9)
- 3) What hints do we have that Samson embraced fully the life and culture of the Philistines? (vv. 10-11) Who is his community now? What do you think are the factors that prompt the gambling riddle that Samson crafts? (vv. 12-14) How do the Philistines get the answer to the riddle? (vv. 15-16) What does this say about the so-called “community” that Samson has joined here in Philistia? What does it say about the loyalties of his wife? What divisions are created by the drunken Philistine bachelor party? (vv. 15-18)
- 4) Why does the Spirit of the Lord come upon Samson when he has been so unfaithful? What happens to the marriage? Where does Samson go? How do you think Manoah and his wife think about all these things? (vv. 19-20)
- 5) Do you have or know of adult children who have forsaken the Lord and His ways? What special challenges does that bring to parents? What can these parents do? How can the body of Christ be a blessing to such parents?