

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

Joy in Your Attitude

Week of March 1, 2020 A.D.

Joy! It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift from God. It is more valuable than gold. It is a product of a life which is made fully alive through faith in Jesus. Let's talk about how to discover and experience the gift of joy in this lesson.

Read Philippians 2:1 – 4

1. How and why could the actions of the Philippians bring joy to Paul? Do you feel the same joy as Paul does when you see (or hear of) similar actions in the lives of your friends? Please explain.
2. Which gives to you the greater joy: (a) putting the interests of others ahead of your own interests or (b) putting your own interests ahead of the interests of others? Please explain (and be completely honest).
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "You can serve without loving; but, you cannot love without serving."
4. Is there anything which God might ask you to do which will not, out of necessity, be a benefit to at least one other human? Please explain your answer.

Read Philippians 2:4 – 11

5. How do these verses apply to the life of every member of the body of Christ (i.e. the church)? Please explain your answer.
6. In your opinion, what would be different in our society if every Christian were to obey the instructions of these verses? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

7. Verses 3 and 8 make reference to humility. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Humility means that you have your own self-interest under control so that all of your desires and actions can be Christ-controlled.”

8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Whether or not I serve other people means nothing to God. All that matters to God is that I claim to be a Christian.”

9. Are verses 3 – 8 suggestions or commands? Do they apply to all Christians? Are all Christians commanded to be (a) humble? and (b) servants? and (c) obedient to the teaching of the Bible? Please explain each answer.

10. Which of the following should have the highest priority in the life of a Christian: (a) obeying God, (b) loving God, (c) serving God, (d) serving others in the name of Christ, or (e) none of these? Please explain your answers.

11. Does Jesus want each of us to behave and think like Him? If not, why not? If so, why? Please explain your answers.

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Christianity is not a set of rules or an academic exercise. Christianity is a personal on-going relationship with God which is lived and experienced through fellowship with , and obedience to the guidance of, the Holy Spirit who lives in each believer.”

Consider: By His very nature, God is a giver. When I became a Christian, I received the nature of God. Therefore, my “new nature” (which is the nature of God) transforms me into a giver who looks out for the interests of others. My acts of kindness and generosity given to other people give joy to God; and, those same acts of kindness and generosity make me a joyful person. Surrendering to the nature of God within me is the only way that I can enjoy my life to the fullest extent possible. “You think about that.” Amen.