

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Joy

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Scripture: **Romans 15:13**

Series: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

OVERVIEW

In Galatians 5, we are exhorted to walk by the Spirit and be led by the Spirit because we live by the Spirit. This is a struggle to us, as sinners, because the flesh desires what is against the Spirit—and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh (verse 17). The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Today we focus on joy. **Christian joy is a feeling of delight or contentment that is grounded in God and experienced by faith.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. There are a lot of synonyms to joy such as happiness, delight, gladness, contentment, and satisfaction. What are several things that bring you joy, happiness, delight, and pleasure?
2. What are some examples of rejoicing that are corrupt based on Proverbs 24:17 and 1 Corinthians 13:6? What are some other examples of corrupt joy?
3. What are some common joys and pleasures that are not evil but don't go very deep? Can these common joys and pleasures that all kinds of people experience produce Christian joy if they are received as gifts from God's hand? See James 1:17 and Ecclesiastes 3:12-13.
4. Read Psalm 16:11, Romans 15:13, and Philippians 4:4. Based on these verses, in what is lasting joy grounded? What makes this joy last?
5. We don't always experience "inexpressible and glorious joy." What are some of the things in your life that interrupt or interfere with your joy? Why do these things interfere with your joy? What are some other enemies of joy?
6. Based on Romans 5:3-5, Romans 12:12, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, and James 1:2-4, why is it that pain, afflictions, and trials are not necessarily enemies of joy? According to 1 Peter 1:6-9, what is a key to experiencing them joyfully?