



LOVE REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.

“[LOVE] DOES NOT REJOICE AT WRONGDOING,
BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:6

SETTING THE TABLE:

- TRUE love CANNOT be found by looking to MAN or his ACTIVITY.
- LOVE is perfectly DEFINED and PERSONIFIED by God’s ACTIVITY in the GOSPEL.

REJOICING AT WRONGDOING:

1. We rejoice at wrongdoing by reveling in SELF-PLEASURE.
2. We rejoice at wrongdoing by engaging in SELF-WORSHIP.
3. We rejoice at wrongdoing by giving into SELF-HATRED.

A STRANGE CONTRAST:

“Why is it truth, not goodness, that is contrasted with evil? Why not the obvious conflict: love does not rejoice in evil, but rejoiced in goodness?... Love rejoices with the truth which is Jesus Christ, and rejoicing with Christ we revel in reality as it is meant to be. We are glad to be alive in a world where truth can be known uniquely as the reality that is Jesus Christ. Evil is anything that hurts people needlessly. Christ came to save people from evil, so rejoicing in evil and rejoicing with truth are absolute antitheses.”¹ (Lewis Smedes)

REJOICING IN TRUE LOVE’S ANSWER TO WRONGDOING:

1. Jesus (God in flesh) died for sinful men, so we live for HIS PLEASURE, not ours. (2 Cor. 5; Hebrews 11)
2. God alone is ALMIGHTY, and he ALONE is worthy of WORSHIP. (Isaiah 45:5)
3. God created us in HIS image, and HE loves us when we DON’T love OURSELVES. (Genesis 1:26)

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE CHURCH AND OUR MISSION:

- We once were blind, but now we see.
- We live in the midst of an evil culture, and have the responsibility to reach it with the gospel.
- We have been given the truth, the only message of reconciliation, and have the obligation to proclaim it rightly.
- We can rest, knowing that the results are up to Jesus, not us.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US TODAY?

1. REFLECT on the victorious truth of God shown to us through the gospel.
2. RECITE the gospel to ourselves consistently.
3. REFUEL through reading Scripture and prayer.
4. RUN with the strength provided through the Holy Spirit’s presence in our lives.
5. REJOICE in victories, when you see the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

¹ Lewis B. Smedes, *Love within Limits: Realizing Selfless Love in a Selfish World*. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1989), 88, 90.