

Christ Our Joy

JOHN 15:9-11

Jesus came not merely to improve our joy, but to give us His joy, a joy the world cannot produce, cannot understand, and cannot take away.

THE ORIGIN OF JOY: JESUS PUTS HIS JOY IN US v. 11

- What does Jesus mean when He says He wants “My joy” to be in us? (v. 11)
How is Jesus’ joy different from the temporary joy the world offers? (e.g. Hebrews 12:2)
- Where do you typically look for joy apart from Christ, and why do those sources ultimately fail (e.g. Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)? How would your daily life change if you believed Jesus’ joy already lives in you?
- How does the incarnation, God becoming man (John 1:14), make it possible for Christ’s life and joy to be placed inside us (e.g. Colossians 1:27)? How does this deepen your joy as Christmas morning approaches?

THE PATHWAY OF JOY: ABIDING IN CHRIST’S LOVE v. 9

- How does the comparison Jesus makes in John 15:9 (“As the Father has loved Me...”) help you understand the depth and certainty of His love and how that love brings true joy? (e.g. Romans 8:38-39)
- What does abiding in Christ’s love look like practically in your week, especially when life doesn’t feel joyful? How have you experienced joy when you remained in His love?
- Advent reminds us that God’s love came near in Christ (e.g. 1 John 4:9-10). How does focusing on the love God showed in sending His Son strengthen your joy?

THE EXPRESSION OF JOY: OBEDIENCE ROOTED IN LOVE v. 10

- How does Jesus link obedience to joy in verse 10? Why is obedience meant to be a joyful response to love rather than a burden? (e.g. 1 John 5:3)
- Can you think of an area where obeying Jesus, especially when hard, eventually brought peace or joy (e.g. Hebrews 12:2)? What does that teach you about the relationship between obedience and joy?
- Jesus came in perfect obedience to the Father (e.g. Philippians 2:8). How does His obedience, from the manger to the cross, fill your life with joy today?