

TOGETHER

DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIP & COMMUNITY

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MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE & BROOKE THIELEN

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Designed to rejoice with one another

What do we mean by "joy/rejoicing"?

An internal response of delight determined by the circumstances in which we live.

The first example of human joy comes from the first husband!

Gen. 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." . . . 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Gen. 2:23 Then the man said,

*"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."*

Gen. 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Joy springs from shared life experienced with others.

1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

1John 1:2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—

1John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1John 1:4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete

1. This quality of life comes only from Jesus Christ (1-2).
2. Jesus intends us to experience this life (3).
3. Experiencing this life leads to completing joy (4).
4. Note the centrality of Jesus to our joy.

John 14:28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

Our joy powerfully thrives in the midst of suffering.

1. The security of heaven outweighs earthly accomplishments.

Luke 10:20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

2. The value of future rewards outweighs persecution.

Luke 6:22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

3. The promise of Christlikeness through suffering produces "hope-full" joy.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

4. Sharing joy stimulates rejoicing in others.

Phil. 2:17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. 19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Think about something you get great pleasure out of sharing with others. (A song, a meal, experience) or remember a time when you've experienced enjoyment with others.
2. Take time to think about the privileges/benefits of being a daughter or son of God. How does our shared experience of those benefits intensify our joy?
3. Do you regularly experience joy in your Christian life? Do you take joy in your VBC church family? If your answers are "yes", take time to thank the Father for drawing you into fellowship through Christ. If your answer is "no", re-read 1 John 1:1-4 and consider the lengths the Father has gone to in order to share life with you. Pray that he will renew your joy in fellowship with him and with his people.

SONGS

"God is For Us" - James Ferguson, James Tealy, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Tiarne Kleyn, Michael Farren, Jesse Reeves

"King of My Heart" - John Mark McMillan, Sarah McMillan

"Jesus Paid It All" - John Thomas Grape, Elvina M. Hall, Alex Nifong

"Goodness of God" - Ed Cash, Jenn Johnson

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$24,383.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,453,679.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,504,097.00