

Abiding in Christ

Joy & Love

John 15:11,12

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus gives the reason for his farewell message: that His disciples would have joy
- Jesus commands His disciples to love one another following His example

Think about how biblical joy is different from this world's "happiness." What is the difference, and why do you think Jesus makes this the centerpiece of His farewell?

Do you think the joy Jesus speaks of is a product of the Spirit's work, a gift of Jesus Himself or both? Read Hebrews 12:1,2 and Explain His words, "...*that my joy may be in you.*"

What kind of "love" is Jesus speaking of here? How does verse 13 help to define it? Consider also John 13:34, John 14:23, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. How would you describe the relationship between obeying Christ and loving others?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

In what areas of your life do you struggle to have joy? What would it look like to have His joy in these? How would it change your mindset, actions and words?

What do you think Jesus means in saying, "... *that your joy may be complete?*" How does your life change when your joy is incomplete?

How does or should obeying Jesus' command to love one another change the "world" or your relationships? Make a list of five or more acts of love that you could show to those in your family or outside.

Devote your quiet/prayer times this week to understanding and applying the joy and love of Jesus to your life.

GROUP RESPONSE

Reflect on this: “Is it more effective to have the joy of Jesus and demonstrate His love as part of a small group?” Why or why not?

Ask those in your smallest circle of Christian friends to join you in studying out the ways Jesus showed His love to His disciples. Then decide together how you can mimic that love to one another.

REPRODUCE

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, think about ways you can spread the joy and love of Jesus in your family or in your neighborhood.

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- John 15:11,12

Additional verses from the study:

- Hebrew 12:1,2
- John 13:34
- John 14:23
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7