

“Living a JOY filled Christian Life”

I John 1:4-10

Open:

- We must realize that joy is not a byproduct of man’s ability [man cannot create it because it is a response not an emotion], it is a byproduct of obeying God’s Word. **Gal. 5:22** “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...*”
 - We must be willing to crucify what the flesh thinks it wants and live by what the Spirit says we want. **Gal. 5:24** “*And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. [25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. [26] Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*” [This is exactly what **I John 1:7** is saying.]
- Joy begins with Jesus.
 - We must be willing to realize that what we think will bring joy in our life may not be what Jesus said will bring joy. **ILL:** *The Prodigal son thought he knew how to get what would make him happy, but he should have trusted the father, and he would have been joyful.* **Lk. 15:11-20**
 - The more time I spend with Jesus the more I come to trust Him with the decisions that I make.
- Joy in my personal relationships with others comes, when my personal relationship with Jesus is correct.
 - **Prov. 16:7** “*When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*”
 - Being right with God allows me to have true fellowship. **I John 1:7** (*Remember sin always separates*)

Tran:

- We need to realize God wants the best for His children. **I John 1:4**
 - Jesus died for us so that we did not have to go to Hell.
 - Jesus has told us how we should live so that He can bless our obedience.
 - Jesus set up guidelines so that we did not have to make decisions that would hurt us.
- We need to realize the only way to get what God has told us is best for us, is by doing what God said is best.
 - By faith, we need to realize that obeying God means we will be walking in the light, and that disobeying God means we will be walking in the darkness. **I John 1:5** – They heard it from Him, then they experienced it; because they obeyed by faith. They did not wait till they understood electricity before the turned in the light switch.
 - Error will be exposed. Allows for confidence in the times of uneasiness
 - Truth will be revealed Brings understanding
 - Brings clarity of thought No trip hazards
 - Not just talking like a child of God; but living like a child of God. **I John 1:6**
 - “*Your talk talks, and your walk talks; but your walk talks louder than your talk talks.*”
- We need to recognize the signs in our life that reveal, if we are living the Christian life to its fullest potential.
 - Good relationships with other Christians; because of our cleanliness from sin. **I John 1:7**
 - Being able to recognize the sins and faults in our own life. **I John 1:8**
 - Not ignoring the sins present in our life; but seeking forgiveness from God. **I John 9-10**

□ “*Do not sacrifice permanent joy on the altar of temporary pleasure.*”

I. Joy begins with the right relationship with Jesus.

- A. Not walking in darkness. **Ps. 82:5** *“They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.”*
- i. When we walk in darkness, we cannot see what will help or hurt us.
 - ii. When we walk in darkness, we cannot properly perceive life.
 - iii. When we walk in darkness, our understanding is not what it should be.
- B. Walking in the light (truth). **John 8:12** *“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*
- i. Allows me to clearly see what will help me or what will hurt me.
 - ii. Allows me to perceive life the way that God does.
 - iii. Allows me to understand the importance of obedience in my life.
- C. Living with a clean conscience. **I John 2:1**

II. Joy continues when I have the right relationship with Others.

- Life consists of 2 relationships: my relationship with God and my relationship with man. If either one is not right, then the other one will be affected.
- A. How I treat other people is in direct relation to my relationship with God. **I John 2:10-11**
- B. Sin prevents us from being able to get close to others. **I John 3:10**
- C. Obedience in my treatment to others is not based on their actions to me, but desire to please my heavenly Father. **I John 3:16-17**

III. Joy is fulfilled, when peace dwells in You, because you obeyed.

- A. Joy in the Christian life comes to a person when he chooses to think like God has instructed him to, instead of thinking selfishly with a carnal mind. **Phil. 2:2-5** *“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. [3] Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. [4] Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. [5] Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”*
- B. Joy in the Christian life comes to a person whose conscience is free from the guilt of sin. **I John 3:20-22**

Close: Joy is ALWAYS preceded by OBEDIENCE. Neh.12:43

- Joy in life comes when I am willing to set aside what my flesh wants and by faith decide to do what God has said will bring me JOY.
- Walking with God and making sure God is happy with my life.
 - Treating others how God wants me to treat them.
 - Making sure that I am living my life as close to the Bible as I possibly can.

Ps. 16:11

“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”