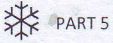




Joy Over Jesus



PART 5



Pastor Matt Jones



I. Introduction

- A. The context and the metaphor
- B. The passage: John 15
- C. The final theme to consider

II. The Joy Jesus Offers

- A. The messianic claim of joy.
- B. The human quest for joy.

1. Humans are built for joy, though sin misguides its fulfillment.
2. God commands our joy to be fulfilled in Him.
3. The Christian misunderstanding of delight and duty.

- C. True joy in God is found in a Christian “hedonistic” pursuit of God.

III. Conclusion

- A. How can I find such fulfilling joy?
- B. The role of God's glory and man's joy
- C. The happiness of God

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. The sermon series on John 15 is finished. Read John 15:1-11 together for a final time. What was your big 'take-away' from this series and this passage of Scripture?
2. Prior to hearing this final sermon, what had you been taught in the church previously about joy and enjoying God?
3. Prior to this sermon, had you ever spent time reflecting upon the happiness of God? Have you ever thought of God as happy? Why or why not? How does knowing you worship an infinitely happy being impact you? What might it change about your life or thoughts?
4. How does joy in God help us to overcome confront temptation?
5. How do pursuing joy and pursuing obedience relate? How does self denial (a biblical theme) fit into Christian hedonism and the pursuit of joy?
6. Discuss the issue of duty vs. delight raised in the sermon. Think about it. Do you want to be happy? Is that a bad thing? Why or why not? Should your desire to be happy motivate everything you do, or does God sometimes call you to suppress your desire to be happy in order to do "the right"? Why do we divorce doing the "right thing" from being happy? Why aren't you simply happy doing the right thing and delighting in our God? What practically robs your happiness in God and your duties before Him?
7. Close your CG by praying for the joy of Lord to increase in your lives.