

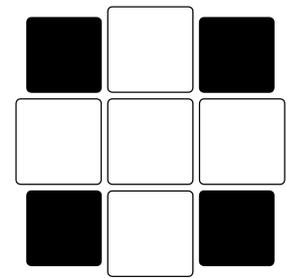
The Source of Our Joy

Scripture: **1 John 1:4**

Series: **Doctrine and Devotion: A Study in the First Epistle of John**

Sunday, February 01, 2015

Corroborating Texts: John 15:11



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Overview

Christian joy is the heart delights in, rejoices in, and exults in Jesus Christ as the Son of God who loves us and died for us.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the things that make you happy (whether superficial or profound)? What do you look to in order to satisfy your need for happiness? What do people look to in order to satisfy their need for happiness?
2. How would you distinguish happiness and joy? [worldly happiness and Christian joy] What is not Christian joy? [pretending or worldly happiness] Have you struggled with the temptation to pretend? Why might you do so?
3. Do you think it is wrong to enjoy worldly happiness? Why or why not? What is the danger of worldly happiness? [it'd dependent on circumstances] When has your worldly happiness been ruined by circumstances? When has your circumstances altered suddenly to give you happiness?
4. How may we find Christian joy? [Look to what God is doing in your life. Look to see what God is doing in others.] What do you see God doing in your own life? Each person take a turn and share one thing. Now look around the room. What else do you see God doing in the life of the people around you? Take turns and encourage one another.
5. Christian joy **stems from faith** and **feeds your faith**. It's cyclical. Have you seen your joy increase as you've seen your faith increase? How have you seen your faith increase as you've seen your joy increase?
6. What are ways that we give up Christian joy? [indwelling sin, neglecting the means of grace, bad theology] How do we counter these obstacles? [repentance, celebrating the means of grace, knowing solid doctrine]
7. Once we have Christian joy, what must we do with it? [share it] Who are you sharing your joy with? How can we pray for you as you share?