

Studies in Christianity Christian Love #18

S#1.

Love Rejoices in the Truth

S#2.

Text : **I Corinthians 13: 1-8 ; Philippians 1: 12-20**

A. What's the greatest problem in this congregation ?

S#3.

1. Are we divided into competitive parties, clicks ? **No.**
2. Do we have those living in open immorality, committing incest ? **No.**
3. Do we have brethren quarreling and suing each other in civil courts ? **No.**
4. Do we have members who condemn other brethren for eating meat ? **No.**
5. Do we have brethren who think it is wrong for single people to marry ? **No.**
6. Do we have brethren getting drunk during communion ? **No.**
7. Do we have disruptive brethren competing during our assemblies ? **No**
8. Do we have brethren who deny the resurrection of Jesus ? **No,**

B. Any one of these problems would be a major issue for us, but all of these and more were present in the church at Corinth.

S#4.

1. Even so, the inspired Apostle referred to them as brethren.

I Cor. 1: 2 – To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

S#5.

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Paul did not give up on them, **but** worked to mold them into Christ's image.

C. The Apostle identified the lack of love as the foundation of their problems.

1. **I Cor. 13: 1** – If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

S#6.

2. None of the things they upheld as virtuous were of value without love.
 - a. Speaking in tongues was of no value without love.
 - b. The gift of prophecy, i.e., have miraculous knowledge, was of no value w/o love.
 - c. Even great faith is of no value without love.
 - d. No act of kindness or benevolence is of value unless motivated by love.
 - e. The ultimate commitment, martyrdom is worthless without love.

D. He then begins to teach them how to go about exercising Christian love. S#7.

1. He did not assume they were withholding love, **but** that they did not know how.
2. This was a good assumption because Agape was not part of their culture.
3. **I Cor. 13: 4** – Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
 - a. These verses use 15 verbs to describe the functioning of love.
 - b. By this the Lord was telling them what He wanted for them to DO, how to act.

E. This lesson will be an exposition of verse 6 : S#8.

1. **I Cor. 13: 6** – (*love*) does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
2. We will look at this verse under three headings : S#9.
 - a. What does it mean to rejoice in the truth ?
 - b. What is the cause for rejoicing in truth ?
 - c. What rejoicing in truth produces.

I. What does it mean to rejoice in the truth. S#10.**A. Verse 6 is a type of “broken” Hebrew parallelism.**

1. **What is parallelism?** It is a structure of thought in which the writer balances a series of words so that patterns of deliberate contrast or intentional repetition appear. ...
2. To say the one rejoices in the truth is to say he does not rejoice in evil.

B. Two different forms of the Greek word are both translated as “rejoice.” S#11.

1. Does not “**chairō**” in unrighteousness
 - a. Meaning : **Rejoice, be glad**
 - b. Trans. 40 x as *rejoice*, but also as : *joy, joyfully, greeting, God speed, all hail*
2. “**sugchairō**” with the truth
 - a. Meaning : **to rejoice with, take part in another's joy**
 - b. This is an amplified form of rejoice as if “very joyful.” E.G. ...
I Cor. 12 : 26 – And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

C. Some interpret this as referring to receiving reports about evil.

1. It is a natural instinct for people to have their ears open for evil reports.
 - a. “Rubber necking” causes congestion at traffic accidents.
 - b. Crowds quickly form at crime scenes.
 2. The news media makes a fortune from this character defect.
 - a. *“If it bleeds it leads.”*
 - b. Good news, positive stories get little airtime. (*controversy gives legs*)
- III. - 430 congressmen show up most days, but other 5 get most of the attention**
3. This is a function of our fleshly nature and our debased culture. As Paul said :

Rom. 1: 32 – and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who S#12.
practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same,
but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.
 - 4 Love is a principle of grace that turns us against evil.
 - a. **Psa. 119: 136** – My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Your law.
(*When is the last time the news brought tears to our eyes.*)
 - b. **I Cor. 5: 1** – It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and S#13.
immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles,
that someone has his father's wife. **2** You have become arrogant and
have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed
would be removed from your midst.
(*If the sin of others should cause us to “mourn”, how much more so our own sin.*)

D. Observe that the word “truth;” has a definite article with it, “the truth.”

1. In scripture “**the truth**” refers to a specific body of teaching which forms Christianity
 - a. The use of the definite article “**the**” limits the subject to one specific truth.
 - b. Earth is cold on the poles and hot on the equator is a truth, **but** is not **THE** truth.
2. Jesus said that HE was “**the truth**” that gives people eternal life.
 - a. **John 14:6** – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; S#14.
no one comes to the Father but through Me.
 - b. Therefore, one who does not know Jesus cannot possibly be saved eternally.
3. It is only “**the truth**” that sets men free from their sins.
 - a. **John 8: 31** – So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him,
“If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”
 - b. Thus, knowing the truth involves knowing the words of Jesus
 - c. Knowing the truth involves “continue in My word.” which is an ongoing lifestyle.

II. What is the reason to rejoice in truth / righteousness / God's word ?**S#15.****A. The Christians rejects those who glory in evil.**

1. Sin by any one, in any place and in any form is a strikes at the very heart of God.

Thomas Brooks wrote : A holy man knows that all sin strikes at the holiness of God, the glory of God, the nature of God, the being of God, and the law of God: and therefore his heart rises against all (sin); **S#16.**

2. The one who seeks to have a relationship with God rejects all forms of evil.

- a. **Prov. 14: 9** – Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is good will. **S#17.**

- b. **Prov. 14: 34** – Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people.

- c. **Psa. 119:104** – From Your precepts I get understanding;
Therefore I hate every false way.

B. Our hearts are made sad by those who reject the truth that can make them free.

1. When I was young I saw preacher shedding quiet tears when no one responded.

- a. When he came for lunch the next day I embarrassed my parents by asking why.

- b. His explanation changed my understanding of the gospel and of Hell.

2. One of the saddest things on earth is for someone to choose Hell by rejecting truth.

- a. While doing a gospel meeting a man studied with me three days in his home.

- b. He understood the truth and what he needed to do to be saved, but refused in tears.

- c. His family had always been a member of a denomination and he wouldn't leave it.

- *d. He volunteered to me, *"I know I will go to Hell when I die, but I just can't leave it."*

C. Seeing those we love being faithful to the truth is a cause of great joy.

1. I can't read you hearts, but when I see you hear each week it lifts my soul.

2. The Apostle John rejoiced to learn those he had taught were still faithful.

- a. **II John 4** – I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father. **S#18.**

- b. **III John 3** – For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth. **4** I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

3. It is extremely important that we remain close together and intertwine our lives so that we will know each other's heart for the truth.

D. The Apostle Paul was made to rejoice anytime the gospel was preached.

1. While he was on trial for the crime of preaching the gospel, he preached.

Phil. 1: 12 – Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, **13** so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, **14** and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. **S#19.**

2. He was even happy that some were preaching in an attempt to get him killed.

Phil. 1: 15-18 – Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; **16** the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; **17** the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. **S#20.**

III. What rejoicing in the truth requires and produces. **S#21.**

A. There is no true love for others (true agape) apart from the truth.

1. Christian love is NOT what comes naturally, it is a learned behavior.
2. It is unique to the Christian religion. *It sets us apart from the world ... Jn 13:34-5*

B. What conditions are necessary for greater love and greater joy ? **S#22.**

1. We must learn the truth.
 - a. One cannot rejoice in something they do not know.
 - b. Limited knowledge of truth results in limited joy.
2. One must develop a love for the truth before he will rejoice in it
 - a. Love for the Father fosters love for His word.

Psa. 119: 103 – How sweet are Your words to my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

- b. **Psa. 19: 8** – The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; **S#23.**
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.
9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.
10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

3. One must live the truth in order to make it a source of joy
 - a. Truth becomes dynamic and powerful when animated in one's life.
 - b. As we live truth, it enlarges our hearts for others.

C. What is the truth ? It is the gospel message

S#24.

1. **Eph. 1: 13** – In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth,
the gospel of your salvation
2. All men are guilty of sin and sentence to eternal spiritual death. **Rom. 3:23, 6:23**
3. Jesus came into the world to save sinners. **I Tim. 1: 15 , I John 4: 10 .. *propitiation***
4. Sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus. **Heb. 9: 14**
5. Man must place his full faith and trust in Jesus sacrifice to save him
6. He must turn away from the world and the practice of sin to serve Jesus.
7. He must surrender his will completely to that of Jesus the Christ.
8. He must demonstrate his trust and his surrender by obeying a form of teaching.
9. That form of teaching is baptism. (*in a figure burying the old man and rising a new*)
10. Living a life that rejoices in truth

INVITATION :

Are you walking with God, rejoicing in the truth ?

S#25.

S#26. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 13: 1-8**

1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, **5** does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, **6** does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away.

Philippians 1: 12-20

12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, **13** so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, **14** and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. **15** Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; **16** the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; **17** the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, **19** for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.