

ROMANS TWELVE



VERSE 11–16 | Page 1616

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REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE

VERSE 15A

TWO KINDS OF JOY

Immediate Joy: my hope came to pass.
Vicarious Joy: yours did—and I am just as glad.

IMMEDIATE

Immediate joy is when ***my***
longing or hope come to
pass.

VICARIOUS

Vicarious joy is when
another's desire has come to
pass—and I'm just as happy.

Shared—or Vicarious joy—is a kind of
Resonance.

(even if it isn't spontaneous)

BIG CONCEPT:

Vicarious joy is a vital test of sincere love.

Do you willingly share in the joy of someone's **goods**
even when you don't share in the **gains**?

That IS faith that contains hope and
produces love.
It is saving and regenerate faith.

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VICARIOUS JOY VERIFIES
SINCERE LOVE

“There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

LUKE 15:7 NIBO

GOD'S REDEMPTION PRODUCES VICARIOUS JOY



LOVE'S GOODS PRODUCED BY VICARIOUS JOY

IMAGE GOD

Renewed in the image of our
creator

CONSTANTLY PLEASED

Costless happiness that is
fulfilling and constant

DEEP SPIRITUAL BONDS*

It binds us together as the
Family of God and Body of Christ

NO PROVISION FOR FLESH

Puts to death the defects of sin
and acts by the Spirit

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

We make sacrifices to bring
goods to others

“There is nothing that ties love so firmly as sharing both joy and pain one with another.”

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

4 responses to Joy

How much bonding did each response produce?

Enthusiastic

“That’s AMAZING!!!!”

Quietly Pleasant

“That’s nice.”

Actively Negative

“Can you handle that change?”

Diversion

“Is the new episode of _____ out?”

4 responses to Joy

Only one mattered to anyone...

Enthusiastic

“That’s AMAZING!!!!”

Quietly Pleasant

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“Even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, **I am glad and rejoice with all of you.**”

PHILIPPIANS 2:17

“Now **I rejoice in what was suffered for you**, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.”

Colossians 1:24

II

LACK OF VICARIOUS JOY
REVEALS CRITICAL
DEFICIENCIES

Four heart defects that make vicarious joy impossible

Don't get defensive—these defective states are curable in Christ, through faith, and by God's Spirit

1. APATHY I feel nothing. Living deadness.
2. ACEDIA I don't care. The good is tiresome.
3. ENVY I wanted that good for me instead.
4. MALICE I wanted evil for him instead.

Apathy negates feeling.

Acedia negates caring.

They are not the same disease.

A man of genuinely flat affect who still shows up, still labors, still does his duty has apathy without acedia.

A woman with abundant feeling about politics, his fantasy league and his own grievances, who has no concern for what **actually merits** *that passion*, has acedia without apathy.

The one that feels flat AND does nothing has both.

Envy is...

“A spirit of dissatisfaction with, and opposition to, the prosperity and happiness of others as compared with our own.”

JONATHAN EDWARDS (1703–1758)
CHARITY AND ITS FRUITS, LECTURE 6

Paul commands joy at another's good and
sorrow at his evil.

Envy produces sorrow at his good and
Malice, joy at his evil.

“Though they know God’s righteous decree... they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”

ROMANS 1:32

III

JESUS GRACIOUSLY OFFERS
US POTENT REMEDIES

“No one can do this for himself. The gospel of salvation in Christ is the only thing that can deliver one from the self.”

D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES SERMON
ON ROMANS 12:15–16, 1966

GENERAL REMEDY 1

Believe in Jesus vicariously

Be turned outward by believing in Jesus

SPECIFIC REMEDIES

Practice Vicarious rejoicing—
in encouragement and
worship

(Thus, directly attacking envy, and
treating apathy)

Practice Meditation on
all that is good

(Thus directly attacking malice and
treating acedia)

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:8–9 (ESV)

“The demand of the loveless and the self-imprisoned that they should be allowed to blackmail the universe: that till they consent to be happy (on their own terms) no one else shall taste joy: that theirs should be the final power; that Hell should be able to veto Heaven.”

C.S. LEWIS, THE GREAT DIVORCE, CH. 13

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REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE

OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

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