

What is Essential For Us to Have Christ's Joy in Us

by Tim Conway

This sermon delves into the importance of abiding in God's love by keeping His commandments, just as Jesus abided in the Father's love through obedience. It emphasizes that true joy is found in love and obedience, not in dry rule-keeping, and that following God's will leads to experiencing His radiant love and joy. The sermon highlights the ease of Christ's yoke, symbolizing the light burden of being yoked to Him and surrounded by His love, making obedience a joyous journey.

Scripture: John 15:10, John 15:11, 1 John 5:3, Matthew 11:30, 1 John 2:5, Psalm 16:11, John 14:21, 1 John 4:19, Psalm 23:1

Topics: "Abiding in God's Love", "Joy in Obedience"

Description

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Transcript

I'm going to make a partial stab at what it is that Jesus says that is so key to us having His joy. I would just have you take a look at John 15.10, which comes right before 15.11, where He says, These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you. Now I recognize these things may go beyond the verse that was just spoken before it, but certainly the verse spoken just before it would be inclusive in these things.

Notice what it says, If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. You see, we're talking about abiding in the circle of love. These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and your joy may be full.

I don't think any of us questions that the richest, deepest, most profound joys in this world are attached to love. I think we all know that. Notice, the very joy of Christ that He Himself had sprang out of obedience to His Father's commandments, which centered Him squarely in those bright rays of the love of the Father.

To delight in the Father, He also had communion, fellowship with Him in the Father's will. He delighted in His will. He's so delighted in the Father and delighted in everything that the Father delights in and everything that the Father loves.

That's what the commandments are all about. It's the will of God. It's what God delights in.

It's what is consistent with His own character and His own love, His own beauty, His own holiness. The path to joy for Jesus is the same path to joy for me. He flourished there in the delights of His Father's love through obedience.

And so I'm called to abide in the radiance, all this glow of Jesus' love, by the same thing. And you know what the world does? They view Christianity, oh, it's this dry and dreary thing. Just a list of rules.

That's all Christianity is. No, it's not. It's about being drawn into this very circle where the love of Christ just radiates and permeates and surrounds.

Unless you fall into this idea that it's gray, joyless rule keeping. It's not. It's a world of love.

Listen, when Jesus came along, He said, my yoke is easy. Really? A yoke sounds hard. I've got a picture in my mind of cattle, yoked, going across the hot field, dusty, all day long.

I don't like yokes. Why? Let's just inquire. Lord, why is Your yoke easy? Well, because You're yoked to Me.

And I'm only going to take You near the still waters and the green grass. And I'm going to smother You with My love. And anything that I call You, as far as hardship here, it's momentary light affliction.

And then it's going to be all glory. It's good. My burden is light.

Why? Because My love is going to be there supporting you all the way through it. You know, John says it this way. He says that this is love.

That we keep His commandments and His commandments are not burdensome. Well, no. Anytime you find a Master who floods His servants with love, following His desires are not hard.

Oh yeah, if they're tyrants, if they're like the devil, that's not it. The joy of Christ arises from... I mean, His joy came from being loved by the uttermost Supreme of all beings. He was one with His Father.

One in purpose. This is the realm into which Christ bids us. This excerpt was taken from the full sermon, What Does Fellowship with God Look Like? Part 2

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