

LOVE

Without Hypocrisy

(in the book of Romans)

33 – Rejoicing and mourning... NOT like the world

Romans 12:9-21

"Unhypocritical Love"

1) Living in the family of God (v. 10-13).
(All people who belong to Jesus.)

2) Interacting with people (v. 14-16).
(Both saved and unsaved.)

3) Responding to enemies (v. 17-20).

Today we look at verse 15!

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.

Romans 12:15 (NIV)

That's easy!
Anyone can do it!

Oh really? Then why
would Paul have to
tell us to do it?

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.

Romans 12:15 (NIV)

How sad do you really
get when others are
seriously hurting?

Especially if it's
someone you
don't like?

He
deserved
it!

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.

Romans 12:15 (NIV)

How happy do you really
get when others are
blessed and you aren't?

That's not fair... I
deserve it more
than he does!

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.

Romans 12:15 (NIV)

What if it were your
persecutor? *
Would you still do
what this verse says?

Persecutors?
Are you
serious?

* THE PREVIOUS VERSE:
Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse.

Romans 12:14 (NIV)

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.
Romans 12:15 (NIV)

YES!

This verse applies
as much to our ENEMIES ...

as to our FRIENDS.

**Do you see why it's
not always that easy?**

AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE...

**THE WORLD CAN LOVE THOSE
WHO LOVE THEM BACK!**

If you love those who love you, what credit
is that to you? For even sinners love
those who love them.

And if you do good to those who do good to
you, what credit is that to you? Even
sinners do the same.

Luke 6:32-33 (NET)

**BUT GOD CALLS US TO
A DIFFERENT KIND OF LOVE!**

But love your enemies, and do good, ...
Then your reward will be great, and you will be
sons of the Most High, because he is kind to
ungrateful and evil people.

Luke 6:35 (NET)

**SUCH A LOVE WILL AFFECT
THE WAY WE REJOICE AND MOURN.**

**THIS ENTIRE SECTION OF ROMANS 12
FOCUSES ON
"UNHYPOCRITICAL (SINCERE) LOVE."**

**If we love our neighbor as our self
(Matthew 22:39):**

- ✓ Unhypocritical love will influence how we
rejoice or mourn.
- ✓ Love for God will also influence how we
do it.

Romans 12:9-21 (NIV)
Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate to one another; in honor preferring one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, enduring in trouble; continuing steadfastly in prayer; contributing to the needs of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and don't curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Don't set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Don't be wise in your own conceits. Repay no one evil for evil. Respect what is honorable in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men. Don't seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord." Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head." Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**OUR RESPONSE MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM
THE WORLD'S RESPONSE.**

- ✓ We will reject the world's hypocritical love.
 - > When they rejoice or mourn for the wrong reasons.
 - > When they do not respond the way Scripture teaches us.
- ✓ We may have to respond the opposite of the way the world responds.

**The Bible will show us
how and when to respond.**

**RESPONDING THE OPPOSITE OF THE WORLD'S WAY?
THIS IS NOT NEW!**

"But to what shall I compare this generation?
It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and
calling to their playmates,
" 'We played the flute for you, and you did
not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' "

Matthew 11:16-17 (ESV)

- > **JOHN:** They wanted him to rejoice; he mourned
about their need of repentance!
- > **JESUS:** They wanted him to mourn; he rejoiced
in the coming of God's kingdom!

✓ We will consider the whole situation – even those aspects the world wants to ignore!

- > The world will tend to ignore (suppress or distort) things that have to do with sin, God and eternity.

WORLD'S AGENDA	
LOOK AT THESE:	IGNORE THESE:
✓ Immediate situation.	✓ The issue of sin.
✓ Short-term feelings.	✓ Long-term results.
✓ The effects on <u>me</u> .	✓ The Kingdom of God.

- > When the world does this, it is not genuine love!

EVEN DEATH

WILL HAVE A DIFFERENT SIGNIFICANCE FOR US.

... I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope.

1 Thes. 4:13 (NLT)

Though we mourn, we do not have to mourn the way the world does!

As the world gets more selfish and has less love for others ...

✓ OUR LOVE MUST GO ON!

Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold.

Matthew 24:12 (NLT)

For people will love only themselves and their money.

2 Tim. 3:2a (NLT)

★ **WE CAN CONTINUE TO REJOICE AND MOURN WHEN THE WORLD STOPS DOING SO.** ★

When the world loves evil and hates good ...

✓ OUR LOVE MUST GO ON!

You hate good and love evil.

You strip the skin off my people and the flesh off their bones.

Micah 3:2 (GW)

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; ...

Isaiah 5:20a (NASB)

★ **WE CAN REJOICE AND MOURN IN A WAY THAT HONORS GOD.** ★

When the world rejoices in sin, but mourns the consequences that sin causes ...

✓ OUR LOVE MUST GO ON!

I spent my entire paycheck on lottery tickets. Now I don't have money to buy food!

We pray that you will repent of your sin. Then you won't throw away the money God has enabled you to earn!

HOW?

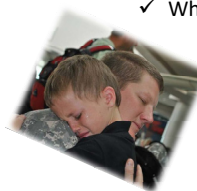
★ **WE MUST MOURN THE SIN THAT CAUSED THE CONSEQUENCES.** ★

WE CAN SHARE IN ANY LEGITIMATE JOYS AND SORROWS OF OTHERS

- ✓ As though it were happening to us.

- ✓ Whether they be saved or unsaved.

- ✓ But especially if they are part of our family in Christ.
(= emphasized in vs. 10-13.)



**WE CAN SHARE IN JOYS AND SORROWS,
JUST AS JESUS DID**

✓ **JOY at the wedding at Cana.**

Three days later a wedding took place in the city of Cana in Galilee.

Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples had been invited too.

John 2:1-2 (GW)

✓ **SORROW at the death of Lazarus.**

Then Jesus wept.

John 11:35 (NLT)

KEY: God's people will rejoice and mourn...

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn.
Romans 12:15 (NIV)

in ways the world cannot.

Since we do not have the same values as the world,
★ we will not rejoice and mourn the same way they do.

Your Mission...

CONSIDER ... *Think about* some of the ways you can do these things.

> Including ways that are different from what the world does.

THEN DO ... As you have opportunity, *do* them!

Credits (1)

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Your Mission...

**"Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn."**

Romans 12:14

Having appropriate responses

ISSUE

- When people do not have the values of Scripture, they sometimes rejoice in sin, mourn over righteous judgment, or have other responses inappropriate for the situation.
- There may be times when our response needs adjusted or changed, because of sin or other circumstances in our lives.

EXAMPLES

- Wrong: Rejoicing in sin (Mark 14:10-11; Revelation 11:10); mourning over righteous judgment (Revelation 18:9-20); inappropriate responses (Matthew 9:15; Luke 7:32-35; 23:8).
- Changing one's response: When sin is present (James 4:8-9); if we have the wrong priorities (Luke 10:20); if other circumstances warrant it (Luke 23:28).

Temporary vs. eternal issues

ISSUE

- The world may have temporary joy; God's people may have temporary sorrow. In the end, those who do not repent will have only sorrow; and God's people will have eternal joy.

EXAMPLES

- The world: Temporary joy (may even seem God-honoring - Luke 8:13; 19:37 compared to 23:21); contrasted to an eternity of sorrow (Matthew 13:42; Luke 6:25; 13:28).
- God's people: Temporary sorrow (perhaps with everything seeming "backwards" - John 16:20-22); contrasted to eternal joy (Matthew 5:4; Luke 6:21; Revelation 21:4).
- *Good* things in this world, because they are temporary, are *not* to be what *controls* our lives (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

REJOICE & MOURN, BUT NOT THE WAY THE WORLD DOES.

We may have a *mixture* of reactions

ISSUE

- God uses trials to accomplish good; so we are to rejoice *always*, even during trials (even if it is mixed with mourning).
- We can *choose* to endure trials and sorrows as an expression of *love* for Jesus, and for other people.

EXAMPLES

- Trials accomplish good - now (Hebrews 12:11) and in eternity (Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:23).
- Rejoice always (Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16); rejoice during trials (Romans 12:12; James 1:2), because of the *good* end-results (1 Peter 4:13). Two examples of those who did this: Paul (2 Corinthians 6:10) and Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).
- Trials as an expression of love (Acts 5:41; Philippians 2:17; Colossians 1:24; Hebrews 10:34); trials do not need to hinder joy and love (2 Corinthians 8:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:6).