

**JOHN 15:1-17**

- Recap: last week we studied vs 8-10, and the concept of us being recognized as disciples by the love we show
- We should have an overwhelming awareness of God's love for us instead of being driven by duty
- Keeping God's commandment to love, helps us abide in His love
- This week we'll study vs 11

vs11 "These things I have spoken to you, that **My joy** may remain in you, and that **your joy** may be full."

- Jesus didn't say He's telling us these things, to give us a religion that binds us up in rules or restricts us in any way, from experiencing an abundant life.
- We must never make Christianity a religion of man made rules.

**MARK 7:7,13(NLTSE)** Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.

**vs13** And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition.

- The word of God will only ever bring liberating joy, when it's mixed with faith and not man made rules:

**HEBREWS 4:2** For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith** in those who heard it

- What is Jesus' joy? Seeing God's plan come to fruition in our lives. ie. us becoming like Jesus:

**ROMANS 8:29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren

- Jesus has joy when we do well:

**PSALM 35:27(b)** "Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.

- What is our joy? Living in the fulfilment of God's master plan, ie. us being fruit bearing branches
- When the empty promises of the world become apparent, the sense of real belonging, the comes from abiding in Christ, will bring us great joy.

**MARK 4:19** and the **cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches**, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful

- How can riches be deceiving? When we begin to believe that wealth can do what only God can
- We need joy to stay strong in our faith:

**NEHEMIAH 8:10(b)** Do not sorrow, for **the joy of the LORD is your strength**.

- Knowledge of what God says about our lives, will bring us joy

**PROVERBS 2:10(NLTSE)** For wisdom will enter your heart, and **knowledge will fill you with joy**.

- Not just any knowledge:

**1 CORINTHIANS 8:1(b)** Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies

### **CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What does joy mean to you and how do you think the unsaved world sees joy?
2. What is Jesus' joy according our study?
3. What effect does man made tradition have on the word of God?
4. How can riches become deceiving?
5. In what ways is Jesus' joy, evident in your life?