

Rejoice: Experiencing Joy as a Couple Part 2

Philippians 4:4-9

Couples Project . March 3, 2020

Part I - *To be completed separately before the message. You can begin at your leisure, but time will be given at the beginning of the meeting to complete this first portion.*

1. What comes to mind when you think of "joy?" What do you associate with "joy?" Whatever it is, no matter of far afield from marriage it may be, jot it down.
2. How would you describe yourself in relation to joy? Does it come naturally to you? Is it hard work? Why or why not?
3. How would you describe your spouse in relation to joy? Does it come naturally to him/her? Is it hard work? Why do you believe this?

Sermon Notes - *For your reference as you review the message.*

1. *The Reason for Joy (vv4-5)*
2. *The Means of Pursuing Joy (vv6-7)*
3. *Necessary Ingredients for Joy (vv8-9)*

Application

- I. *Pursue a Close Personal Walk with Christ*
- II. *Pursue Christ Together as a Couple*
- III. *Learn More of What God Says*
- IV. *Live Like God Means What He Says*
- V. *Do What He Tells You to Do*
- VI. *Rest in the Assurance that God Makes Joy Possible*

Part II a - *To be completed separately after the message. Time will be given following the message to complete this second portion.*

1. What are two or three things you heard in the message that stand out to you as applicable to your marriage as it is currently?

2. Rob mentioned the necessary ingredients of “godliness in your thought life” and “godliness in action.” In which of those do you believe you need God to work in most? Why?
3. As you review the 6 points of application Rob provided, which is something you could take action in right away? Which presents the greatest need for growth in your marriage?

Part II b - *These questions will help foster sharing in groups following Part II a. Listen to and encourage one another.*

1. Take time to introduce yourselves: names, how long you’ve been married, where you live, etc.
2. What are some of the implications of God being near us? (“*The Lord is at hand*”) Share a variety of answers.
3. Why do you believe prayer and supplication with thanksgiving are crucial to our experience of joy?
4. Review the application points from the end of the message. Pick one and share why you personally feel it is important.
5. Share a time when you acted in obedience to the Word of God, even when you didn’t want to. Include how it impacted your walk moving forward.

Part III - *To be completed together within one week after the meeting. Take time where you can talk in an uninterrupted and unhurried way to complete the third portion of this project. Feel free to use this worksheet however you wish. If you want a plan, consider the one below:*

1. Pray. Ask God for his help to keep your conversation fruitful and redemptive. If, at any point during the conversation you feel conflict brewing, stop and remember together that Christ means to be the center of the marriage and the conversation, not a conflict.
2. What are some things you appreciated from the discussion groups that followed the message? Were there particular people or stories or insights? Each should share his/her personal experience.
3. Take the time to share your answers from Questions 2 and 3 in Part I. Realize that God may have spoken to each of you in different ways, seeking to address different things. Don’t correct or critique. Simply inform and share God’s activity during the message. You will find there’s much God has for your learn in this discussion.
4. Review your answers to Question 3 from Part II. Listen to one another share why they’ve answered in the way they have. Discuss potential first steps in moving toward that application.
5. Pray. Ask God to strengthen you with the might of his power as he fills your marriage with his Spirit. Ask him to forgive you for your contribution to any challenges and thank him for bringing you together as a couple. Pray that God would provide all of the help you need.