

Romans 12: Living the Resurrected Life

Rejoice with Those Who Rejoice, Mourn with Those Who Mourn - Romans 12:15

Rejoice and Mourn with Others

- “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts...But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be... so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.” 1 Cor. 12:12,18,25-26
- The word “arranged” is translated from a Greek word that means “to lay down, to ordain, to purpose, to set forth, to settle, to sink down.” (Strong’s)
- Our God is a master craftsman and creator. As we enter into His family by the blood of Jesus; He carefully, intentionally, and skillfully sets our place in the family so that our strengths and weaknesses compliment the members around us. We may need to be shaped and turned; but He has made no mistakes, we are a perfect fit with a powerfully ordained purpose.
- God has created us to be many members of one body, complimenting each other for His plan to bring salvation and maturity to every individual.
- However, our enemy and our own flesh have different agendas of selfishness, isolation, and disunity.
- Our (my) tendency is to isolate ourselves from the messiness and inconvenience of others around us. Then we are able to insulate ourselves from the extreme highs and lows that are present in people’s lives.
- Unfortunately, without experiencing the mountain tops and valleys of other’s lives, we fail to produce meaningful relationships and miss out on many opportunities to experience the glory and productivity of God’s kingdom.
- Father, please teach us how to be a unified family. Help us to crucify our fleshly desires and show us how to rejoice and mourn with each other...

Common Obstacles and Biblical Solutions

1. Obstacle - Selfishness

- Rejoicing and mourning along with our spiritual family requires time, effort, and attention. It can become messy, complicated, and emotionally draining.
- We don’t want to take the time and effort. It stifles our plans and comfort. It requires perseverance, vulnerability, and self denial - and we don’t like it.

Solution - Romans 8:13.b “But if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the flesh, you will live,”

- Who will put the selfishness of our flesh to death? We will put it to death by the power of the Spirit. Quit being a spiritual sissy and letting selfishness rob you of God’s kingdom! It’s an illegal trespass in the life of a Christ follower.
- Refuse to be selfish by the power of the Spirit and every time that old selfish man/woman tries to rise up, remind it that it’s been crucified with Christ and no longer lives, but now Christ lives in you. (Galatians 2:20)

2. **Obstacle** - Busyness

- Rejoicing and mourning along with others costs time. Our lives are busy with good and important things like careers, family, obligations, kid’s activities, church, and hopefully a little sleep - we simply don’t have time for others.

Solution - Matthew 6:33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,”
Galatians 5:25 “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

- Busyness will continue to be an issue in our culture and personal lives. We will effectively combat it by daily re-centering our priorities on God’s kingdom purposes rather than our own. Let’s evaluate the things we are busy doing. Do they have eternal value or are they a waste of God’s gift of time?
- Live in step with Spirit and obey His whisper. If you need to celebrate or mourn with a person, He will let you know. Set your heart on sensitivity to the Spirit and immediately make time to obey when He prompts you.

3. **Obstacle** - Jealousy

- Sometimes we choose not to rejoice and mourn with certain individuals because we are jealous of their accomplishments, possessions, or the attention they are receiving in their mourning process.

Solution - Philippians 2:3.b-4 “But in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also the interests of others.”

- How do we get this humble interest in lifting others up above ourselves? The answer is in verse 1, “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love...”
- When we are united with Christ and filled with His love on a daily basis, He transforms us into His likeness. Are you being united with Him everyday? Are you being filled with His love every morning? Will you commit to be with Him?

4. **Obstacle** - Bitterness

- Sometimes we can't authentically rejoice or mourn with a person because we have personal bitterness or unforgiveness towards them. We are torn in our hearts, because the Spirit is leading us to join them, but there's a wall there.

Solution - Hebrews 12:15 "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

- First of all, don't get into that situation by realizing that bitterness is a scheme of satan to destroy you from the inside out. Recognize the little roots of bitterness and weed them from your heart early before they become trees.
- Secondly, if there is bitterness in your heart. Confess it as sin and repent. Don't be a spiritual sissy. Go to that person and humble yourself. Nothing will destroy the unity of the body of Christ like bitterness. Is the mission of this church being hindered by your personal refusal to forgive?

Practical Suggestions

- **Write a letter.** - A hand written note expresses thought and genuine care.
- **Go to a funeral.** - It's easy to think it won't matter if you're there - but it does!
- **Go to the party.** - We feel like we're too busy for frivolous celebrations, but rejoicing with others is so important for encouragement and unity.
- **Throw a party.** - Make a big deal out of someone's accomplishment. Organize a celebration for them when they won't/can't do it for themselves.
- **Make a meal.** - Providing a meal during a time of mourning or celebration provides comfort and takes one more thing off their list of stuff to do.
- **Make a visit.** - Be led and filled by the Spirit and go visit them. Your presence will be a comfort and great encouragement because of the Life within you.
- **Serve them.** - A quiet service of a real need means a lot in times of mourning.