

BELIEVE
"Believe Like Jesus"
JOY

INTRODUCTION:

- God saved us to produce fruit.
 - a) *Matthew 3:8*

 - b) *Philippians 1:11*

 - c) *Galatians 5:22-23*

- **TWELVE WAYS TO LOVE** **Romans 12:9-16.**

I. LOVE MUST BE SINCERE

1. Vs 9a

a) *"Let love be genuine"*

II. LOVE MUST BE DISCERNING

1. Vs 9b

a) *"Abhor what is evil, hold fast to what is good"*

III. LOVE MUST DISPLAY TENDER AFFECTION

1. Vs 10a

a) *"Love one another with **brotherly affection.**"*

IV. LOVE MUST HONOR OTHERS

1. Vs 10b

V. LOVE MUST BE ENTHUSIASTIC

1. Vs 11

VI. LOVE MUST BE PATIENT

1. Vs 12

VII. LOVE MUST BE GENEROUS

1. Vs 13a

VIII. LOVE MUST PURSUE HOSPITALITY

1. Vs 13b

IX. LOVE MUST BE KIND

1. Vs 14

X. LOVE MUST BE SYMPATHETIC

1. Vs 15

XI. LOVE MUST LIVE IN HARMONY

1. Vs 16a

XII. LOVE MUST SHOW HUMILITY

1. Vs 16b

INSIGHTFUL INSIGHTS INTO REAL INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTIAN JOY

I. JOY IS THE OPPOSITE OF NEGATIVITY

1. Now let's look again at the contrast between the "*Works of the Flesh*" and the "*Fruit of the Spirit.*"

2. Galatians 5:16-17

3. Galatians 5:19-20a Spiritual and Sexual Sins

4. Galatians 5:20b Social Sins

a) *Enmity*

b) *Strife*

c) *Jealousy*

d) *Fits of Anger*

e) *Rivalries*

f) *Dissentions*

g) *Divisions*

5. Numbers 11:1ff

a) "Complaining" - means to express dissatisfaction with a circumstance which in itself is not wrong, and you do nothing to help correct it.

6. Numbers 12:1ff

a) "Criticism" - comes from dwelling on the faults of another with no view of action for the good.

7. "Negativity"

a) Negativity is the **faithless, loveless, destructive**, words about people or situations that only **validate our flesh** and **don't advance God's purposes**.

1) **Loveless** - hateful negativity is a failure to love.

2) **destructive** - There are times when things have to be said, but some people speak nothing by destructive words.

3) **validate my flesh** - When a person is negative it is for the purpose of making them look good.

4) **Don't advance God's purposes** - And you can bet, God's not pleased.

II. WHAT CHRISTIAN JOY IS IS

1. Galatians 5:22

a) **Joy** = "*Chara*" = joy is the feeling of happiness that is based on Spiritual realities.

b) **Joy** = is the deep down sense of well-being that abides in the heart of the person who knows all is well between himself and the Lord.

2. **Biblical Spiritual Joy** = is NOT an experience that comes from favorable circumstances or even human emotion that is divinely stimulated.

3. *1 Peter 1:8*

4. **WOW!!!!** Here it is: *Joy is the inevitable overflow of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior.*

5. *Ephesians 5:18*

III. WHAT CHRISTIAN JOY IS NOT

A. **Christian Joy is Not...** *an act of will-power*, but a spontaneous, emotional response of the heart.

B. **Christian Joy is not...***Superficial and Flimsy*, but deep and firm.

a) *Romans 5:3*

b) *1 Thessalonians 1:6*

c) *2 Corinthians 8:2*

d) *2 Corinthians 6:3-10*

1) How peculiar joy is in that it flourishes in affliction.

C. **Christian Joy is Not...***Natural*

a) What makes something spiritual is that it is produced under special influences of the Spirit of God and has the character of the Spirit of God.

b) *1 Thessalonians 1:6*

c) *Romans 14:17*

IV. GOD COMMANDS US TO BE JOYFUL

A. ALL OVER THE BIBLE

1. *Matthew 5:12*

2. *1 Thessalonians 5:16*

B. WHY COMMAND JOY

1. Because He is worthy of our delight.

2. Only our sinful heart stands in the way.

3. It is right for God to command us to delight in him the same way he demands that man be born again.

a) *John 3:3*

CONCLUSION:

1. *Matthew 13:20-21*