



- We can choose our **attitude** in all circumstances.

Happiness: Comes from the **conditions** around me.

Joy: Comes from the **Spirit of God** within me.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

1 Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Philippians 3:1 (NLT)

- Our **frustrations** can affect our **faith**.

#### Joy killers:

- Living to **impress** people, not God.
- Living for the **applause** of people, not God.

#### More Joy killers:

- When **rituals** replace **relationship**.

2 Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. Philippians 3:2 (NLT)

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

18 For I have told you often before, and I say it again now with tears in my eyes, there are many who walk along the Christian road who are really enemies of the cross of Christ. Philippians 3:18 (TLB)

#### The difference between religion and the cross:

- Religion focuses on what **you do**.
- The Cross focuses on what **Jesus has done**.
- Religion focuses on getting God's **approval**.
- The Cross focuses on **receiving** God's **love**.

7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ Philippians 3:7-8 (NLT)

19 They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. Philippians 3:19 (NLT)

- **Addicted** to pleasure.

- **Earthly** minded.

#### Key to Joy

20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Philippians 3:20 (NLT)

- Be **eternally** minded.

6 ...I obeyed the law without fault. 7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9 and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! Philippians 3:6-11 (NLT)

#### The focus of Joy:

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:12-14 (NLT)

- Aware of God's **forgiveness** for my past.
  - Aware of God's **purpose** for my present.
- 
- Aware of God's **plan** for my future.



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

**Have Questions? Text them to: (559)-464-5754**

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Why?
- Do you think that the frustrations and difficulties of life can affect our faith? How does joy protect us?
- Paul says that rituals can kill joy. In today's world, what are some rituals that people think save them? How do these rituals kill joy?
- Talk through the points under "The differences between religion and the cross". How does religion kill joy in our lives?
- Why does being addicted to pleasure kill the joy God gives? Why does being earthly minded kill joy? Which of these do you think Christians deal with most in today's world?
- Why do you think that the key to joy is to be eternally minded? What is being eternally minded and how does it nurture joy?
- Talk through the three things that joy leads us to focus on?
- How does joy keep us aware of these gifts in our lives?
- How can you nurture joy this week?

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