

# So That You May Know

## An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

### Chapter 12- Sons of God **1John 2:29-3:3**

#### 95. Our Great Joy- Part 2

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WAOY Thursday 10/04/07; Friday 02/10/23

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to continue to look at what John taught about "Our Joy Being Full". So, let's turn in our Bibles and read **1John 2:29- 3:3** again together:

**29** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

**3:1** See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

**2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

**3** And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Now on the last broadcast- we were exploring our great Joy that comes from being saved and following the Lamb. You see- the human body as well as the human spirit soul and mind were originally created to serve God and worship Him. So, anything else that a person does is secondary to that. So, because this is true- only by being redeemed and coming back into right relationship with God-a relationship that we lost in the Fall- and then by applying your heart to know God and to love and serve and obey Him can a man find true Joy.

This is why John wrote this Epistle- so that mankind can recover this great Joy. In **1John 1:4**, the Apostle says:

**These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.**

So as we discussed last time- every aspect of the Christian life is not so that we may be bound in endless legalistic rules and regulations that weigh us down and sap our life and our love and our joy, but every requirement of God; every warning against sin; every rebuke of unrighteousness is designed solely to give the believer access to the fullness of joy that only God can give through Jesus Christ and to allow the believer the glorious opportunity to *remain* in that joy.

So being a Christian means that although we live in this present evil world- we can, and we must maintain fellowship with God and with the Son through the Spirit. Then John goes on to say that there are certain conditions which are absolutely vital and essential to the maintenance of that fellowship and that walk with God- so that Joy can be full and so that Joy can remain. Everything that John has been discussing up until now is to inform us and enlighten us so that we may maintain this fellowship and joy with God.

All of this may be summed up in one word- righteousness. This is what John has been saying to us all this time in different ways.

### **1John 1:5**

**This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.**

### **1John 1:7**

**but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

### **1John 2:3**

**By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

All of these things say to us that if we are part of the family of God, then righteousness is our portion. And the fruit of that righteousness; the result of that righteousness is full and remaining Joy. So, we can see then that Righteousness is the essential element in maintaining our fellowship with God. So, John is very anxious for us to meet these conditions so that we may walk in righteousness to the end that we may receive the fruit of a righteous life which is the fullness of Joy.

So, until we get to verse 29 of chapter 2, righteousness is the theme. But now John changes course on us. What John is saying to us in verse 29 is different:

**1John 2:29**

**If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.**

In other words, John wants us to know that not only do we have fellowship with God, but now he wants us to know that we are now born of God- that we are his children; that we are his sons. We, who are part of the family do not simply have an *external* arms length acquaintance with God- but we possess an internal relationship of being the product of His seed and His birth. So, this family connection means that we are not simply loosely *associated* with Christ, but that by the great miracle of Justification- we are now part of His lineage and have His royal Blood now flowing in our veins. That means that we are actually related to Jesus- by Blood- and that we have been adopted into His Heavenly Family.

Now don't lose sight of how enormous a miracle this is and what great cost to God our adoption required. We who were born in sin and shapen in iniquity had no way to fix our dilemma. The Bible says that we were conceived in the womb as the enemies of God- guilty of the sin of Adam and in possession of the sin nature of Adam so that at the very moment of conception- we were blind and deaf and dead in sins and transgressions- totally and completely separated from God; aliens of the commonwealth of Israel; strangers to the covenants of promises and that we were at that time without God and without hope in this world.

And our sinful fallen nature was such that even though we were in this horrible and dreadful condition- we had the audacity to think that we were really good people; that we were really not that bad; and that we really couldn't see why God didn't love us as much as we loved ourselves.

And part and parcel of that fallen nature was our natural inclination to not only fight against God; not only to rebel against God's Will; but also, we had the natural inclination to want to be God. You see, part of the fallen condition of man is that he wants to do what is right in his own eyes. He wants to live according to his own will; and do

according to what pleases him- rather than submit to God's Will. We don't even have to try hard to be like this- this is simply the natural outflow of being fallen.

But along with that fallen condition is the inability to have this full and remaining joy. Lost people can have joy; they can laugh and have nice; fun times- but only to a point. You see, the joy of fallen man is totally bound by this temporary and carnal and sinful world.

The Joy that is from God and that is full and that remains is based solely upon the character and nature of God and is shared with only those who have been regenerated by the power of God. Those who are still lost- can have joy- but only limited and temporary joy that is inescapably linked to his surroundings and earthly influences.

The Joy of the Lord is not bound by circumstances; it is not dictated to by situations; it transcends politics; and is free to be both full and eternal – regardless of what state we find ourselves in.

So, it is wrong to say that joy is a state of mind- that is grossly underestimating this great gift of joy. Your mind and my mind are only as good as the quality of information that we pour into it. That which goes in your eyes and ears is what feeds your mind. So, garbage in- garbage out. If you feed on a steady diet of the world- then your mind and therefore your joy will not be what John is speaking about here. However, if you put into your eyes and ears things that are eternal and holy- then your mind and therefore your joy is both full and remaining.

But the bottom line here is that it all depends on whether or not you are saved. A lost man trying to apply certain techniques so that he can have this joy is a total waste of time. A lost person trying to have this joy is like a tank trying to swim- you just can't get there from here. John is telling us very clearly that this full and remaining joy is part and parcel to being saved. Full and remaining joy isn't simply about psyching yourself up or trying to self hypnotize yourself into believing this. It isn't about buying the latest pop psychology best seller so that you can learn new methods or clever techniques on how to be happy- it is a matter of belonging to Jesus.

This is what John means when he says this in verse 29:

... everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.

And this is what he meant when he said this in **1John 3:1**:

**... For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.**

And what he meant when he said this in verse 3 of chapter 3:

**And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

Now John was not teaching here that *some* saved people pursue after righteousness while others- who are equally saved- choose not to follow after righteousness- no, John was teaching here that doing righteousness; and being like Jesus; and purifying yourself is the normal and natural fruit of being born from above. So, we can conclude therefore that those who do not follow after righteousness ; those who dwell in darkness; those who enjoy sin; those who are not like Jesus- but who are like the lost world; those who do not purify themselves don't have these attributes simply because they are not saved. And if they are not saved- they do not belong to Jesus.

So, in other words- John teaches that if a person is born of God – then he belongs to God. He no longer belongs to himself. The only people who still have claim over their own lives are those who do not belong to Jesus.

And if a man belongs to Jesus- by definition- he will live a certain life. He will pursue certain things. He will follow after certain attributes, and he will love certain aspects that the world does not follow after. He may not always be successful in obtaining what he follows after- but he will consistently and relentlessly follow after and pursue them.

And by default, that also means that if he is still lost- he will not live a godly life; he will not pursue after holy things; he will not follow heavenly attributes and he will not love heavenly aspects.

Now John was very much to the point about things like this and some have called him rude or unloving and some have even suggested that he was unchristian because of his brutal way of phrasing things- but I disagree.

We need to remember that the words that we find here are not just John's words- but they are inspired Words that came right out of the Mind and Heart and Mouth of Almighty God- so I think we should

be careful to say that John would have been better off if he hadn't spoken so frankly.

What we should say though is how bold those are who say that they are saved and yet do not live godly lives- now that is what is rude; that is what is harsh and that is definitely unchristian- not when John rebukes their deception. Those who try to teach that serving God is optional are the ones who are wrong- not the Apostle who writes here to correct them.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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