

16.

Rejoice with those who rejoice

Romans 12:15a

The Gospel calls us to bless and to rejoice when someone else is blessed. In a competitive world we are conditioned to feel that we have missed out if someone else is blessed in some way. Therefore, a heart untrained by the Gospel resents those who are rejoicing. It is a hallmark of Christ-like maturity when the lime-light is on someone else and rather than feel envy, we can truly rejoice in honouring them (See 1Corinthians 12:26). What reasons do you have to rejoice now?

1. What are some ways we can rejoice with those who are rejoicing?

2. Note First Corinthians 3:1-3. What behaviours does the apostle Paul regard as an indication that a believer was spiritually immature?

3. Biblically, the opposite of *immaturity* is *spiritual*. What does Galatians 6:1 say that the “spiritual” person will do for those who are *immature* or “caught in sin”?

4. How can we help a fellow believer who does not rejoice with another believer?

To rejoice is to be cheerful, glad, make merry, be in a good frame of mind. It is one of the measures of a big-hearted person who can be dealing with their own disappointment as they celebrate with someone else who is celebrating the very thing they have been longing for.

5. According to Christ's words in Luke 10:20, why do we all have a reason to rejoice, and do you?

6. Why did Peter say that every believer should rejoice? (1Peter 1:8)

One of the attributes of those who help to enrich Christian community is that they are rejoicers! People who readily rejoice with others are attractive people. They are fun to be around.

7. Consider Second Corinthians 13:11. Note the qualities in a mature believer which Paul lists for making a strong healthy church-

How can we develop these qualities in our church?

May God help us to be the kind of church that is filled with such rejoicing, restoring, winsome, peace-loving, God-adoring, Holy Spirit filled believers!

Amen.