

I Want To Know What Love Is

Part 10 - Love Does Not Delight in Evil but Rejoices with the Truth

Read

I Corinthians 13:5-6 John 13:34 Matthew 22:39 Matthew 5:44

Jesus said that we are known as his disciples by how we love each other.

“The reputation of the church does not rest solely on the programming of a Sunday morning gathering, but rather on the members' love for one another, neighbors and enemies 7 days a week.”

Discuss your own reaction and instincts when you have been hurt, in light of the statement, ‘Hurt people hurt people.’

Rejoicing in the downfall of another
Delighting when your enemy gets in trouble
Delighting when someone who accused you is caught
Rejoicing when a competitor who cheated you is cheated
Rejoicing when a former friend is kicked out of the circle

Share a time when you were rejected, abandoned, hurt, wronged, cheated, and how you felt toward the person? What goes on inside you? Does the evil in that person toward you, prompt you to respond in kind? If you could go back and change the way you responded then, would it be any different today?

Discuss how you feel about WHFC in this regard. “People visiting a church decide in the first ten minutes whether they will come back.” Have you ever wanted to - or actually walked out of a church because of how it made you feel in the first ten minutes?

Read 1 Peter 3:9-13

Is there any justification there for our normal reaction to get even, or to rejoice when we see someone punished for his or her evil toward us?

How do you feel about the statements “Forgiveness is giving up my right to hurt you for hurting me,” and “Bless those who hate you.”

How do you feel about the concluding statement: “Your children will struggle. Let them. It will be hard to watch.” When we see a loved one struggle, and suffer, we don’t delight in it. But we don’t take over. “I’m here for you, care for you, I’ll walk with you thru it.”