



Whatever
happened
to
Joy?

Kingdom

Joy

Whatever
happened

to

Joy

Romans 14:15-18

If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 14:13-14

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.

Romans 14:15-18

If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Our Current Condition

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, SINCE we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Our Current Condition

SINCE we have been justified by faith

- In Christ**
- Because of Regeneration**
=a new heart reality
- Gift of Faith**
- Declared Righteous**
- Kingdom Righteousness**

Our Current Condition

SINCE we have been declared Righteous

**-We have peace WITH God through
our Lord Jesus Christ**

Our Current Condition

**Through Him we have obtained access
by Grace**

- To the Kingdom**
- To the Father**

Our Current Condition

We rejoice (have joy) in hope (certainty)

- Of God glorified**
- Of Christ glorified**
- Our glorification**

Kingdom Matters

Romans 14:15-16

If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil.

Kingdom Matters

Romans 14:15-16

- **Matters of eating and drinking**
- **Morally neutral / Liberty**
- **Matters of relative insignificance**
 - **You no longer walk in love**
 - **Can “destroy” your brother or sister**

Kingdom Matters

Romans 14:15-16

- **Destroy?**
 - **“an offense that would hinder the development of spiritual life”**

-Geerhardus Vos



...for the Kingdom of God

Reign or Rule of God

Not a realm - no spatial constraints

SAVING Reign or Rule

Wherever righteousness exists

We are, by Grace, in His Kingdom

Not all of His Reign or Rule

...for the Kingdom of God

Present AND Future

Colossians 1:13 “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”

2 Peter 1:11 “and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

...for the Kingdom of God

The Kingdom Of God AND The Kingdom Of Christ

Ephesians 5:5

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Kingdom Matters

**Kingdom Matters are
Significant
Extraordinary
Imperatives**

**Kingdom Matters are not
Eating and drinking
Bickering
Trivial**

Kingdom Matters

A Heart Reality

Ezekiel 11:19

“I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

Kingdom Matters

A Heart Reality

New Desires

New Focus

Not a list (eating and drinking)

Who we are in Christ

Kingdom Matters

Romans 14:18

“because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.”

A Kingdom heart is an external indicator of an internal, supernatural reality

Kingdom Matters

Romans 14:18

“because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.”

- Serves
- Enabled to serve
- Pleasing to God
- Endures the scrutiny of men

Kingdom Focus

Romans 14:17

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,”

- Declared Righteous

- Peace

- Joy

(hmmm-seems like these three things are somehow connected)

What Ever Happened to Joy?

Joy in God's Spirit

Joy In The Fact Of

Forgiveness

Joy In The Word Of God

Joy In A Life Of Prayer

Joy In Jesus In Me

Joy In God's Good

Purposes

Joy In Hope's Certainty

Joy In Our Lifestyle

Joy In Our Present

Groaning

Kingdom Joy

Joyful By Nature

Joy Produced By The Holy Spirit

God With Us Causes Joy

Psalm 16:11

“You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Kingdom Joy

1 Chronicles 16:27 “ Splendor and majesty are before him; **strength and joy are in his dwelling place.**”

The Kingdom is Joy!

Kingdom Joy

Luke 2:10 “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause **great joy** for all the people.”

The Kingdom Revealed Is Joy!

Kingdom Joy

Matthew 5:12 “Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Future of the Kingdom Is Joy!

Kingdom Joy

Joy is a part of our nature and the Spirit is the source....so we have joy. Yet we are also commanded to rejoice!

- sometimes we make excuses**
- sometimes we lose focus**
- sometimes we are a little too self absorbed**
- sometimes we cloud our own joy**

Kingdom Joy

Do my excuses hold up?

Do I serve Christ with Kingdom Joy?

Can we still have joy during groaning?

Can we ask God for more Joy?

Can we encourage others who are struggling with Joy?

“Today is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!”