



## Perfecting Discipleship: Discipleship and Joy

### **His Joy and My Joy**

So far in the upper room discourse Jesus has given the disciples His peace and love—now he imparts His joy.

**Introduction:** In *John 17:6-19* Jesus prays for us and His disciples. It is prayer for assurance, hope, security and protection. It's just the kind of prayer that I would want Jesus to pray for me. All that He teaches in the passage for this study—He prays about. What we learn in this passage—we should also pray about!

#### **A. Love, Joy and Peace that Remain** *John 14:27; 15:9-11*

1. In describing the fruit of the Spirit in *Gal 5:22* Paul lists love, joy, peace first.
2. Jesus gives us His:
  - a. Peace *14:27* ...living above trouble and fear
  - b. Love *15:10* ...abiding [*resting*] in God's will
  - c. Joy *15:11* ...living in the fullness of God

#### **B. Fullness of Joy** *John 15:12-17*

Here are three things that result in the 'remaining joy' of Jesus living in us—His joy becoming our joy:

1. Love one another *:12-13; 17* [*Feet Washing John 13*]
  - a. The disciple's attitude toward one another is critical to the future work of sharing the gospel.
  - b. Unity instead of rivalry, trust instead of suspicion, obedience instead of self-assertion.
  - c. The measure of their love for one another is how He loves them—which should cause them joy!
2. Friendship with God *:14-15*
  - a. A friend is a confidant who shares the knowledge of his superior's purpose and voluntarily adopts it as his own. [*Abraham—Friend of God because of faith James 2:23*]
  - b. The disclosure of the mind of God concerning His will for them (and the world) would give them both assurance and joy that they were engaged in the right task.
3. Appointed Ministry *:16*
  - a. The disciples were both chosen and appointed for service. They were both servants and friends. They were to go and 'manifest the life of God' to a world that did not know God.
  - b. Mankind [*the lost*] was the 'joy' that Jesus saw [*Heb 12:1-2*] as He endured the cross. Our joy should be no less than His.

As branches we receive...  
As disciples we follow...  
As friends we commune...

#### John 14:27

**:27** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

#### John 15:9-17

**:9** "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

**:10** If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

**:11** "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that **your joy may be full** [*complete*].

**:12** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

**:13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

**:14** **You are My friends** if you do whatever I command you.

**:15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for **all things** that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

**:16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

**:17** These things I command you, that you love one another.