



Joy ^{to the} World

Living a Life of Christmas Joy

3 Clusters of Joy

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- 1) Response to life's blessings

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- 2) Response to removal of sorrow or distress

3 Clusters of Joy

- 1) Response to life's blessings
- 2) Response to removal of sorrow or distress
- 3) Disposition that is manifested in the midst of sorrow or distress.

3 Clusters of Joy

- 1) Response to life's blessings = ***Joy b/c of ...***
- 2) Response to removal of sorrow or distress = ***Joy b/c of ...***
- 3) Disposition that is manifested in the midst of sorrow or distress. = ***Joy in spite of ...***

Theology of Joy

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- God is the source of all joy.

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 - God delights in himself.

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 - “Thou art an everlasting joy to Thyself!”
 - St. Augustine, *Confessions*, 138

Theology of Joy

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 - God's essence is joy.

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 - God delights in himself.
 - God's essence is joy.
 - "God possesses joy in Himself and all things else for His delight." Aquinas, I, Q 26, A. 1
- "God is happiness by His Essence: for He is happy not by acquisition or participation of something else, but by His Essence." I, II, Q3, A. 1.

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- God is the source of all joy.
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 - Joy is connected to God's presence.

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Theology of Joy

- God is the source of all joy.
 - God delights in himself.
 - God's essence is joy.
 - What about love?

Theology of Joy

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Theology of Joy

- God is the source of all joy.
 - God delights in himself.
 - God's essence is joy.
- So what??

Theology of Joy

If God's is joy in his essence, then everything God does he does out of joy!

Theology of Joy

- Creation

Theology of Joy

- Creation: We believe God created. If God does everything with joy, he must have created with joy.

Gen. 1

- .10, .12, 18, .21, .25, .31 – creation was “good”

Gen. 1

- creation was “good” - .10, .12, 18, .21, .25, .31
- God shares the act of creation with creation (“Your turn.”) - .11, .20, .22, .24, .26, .28

Rev. 4

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

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to receive glory and honor and power,
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and by your will they were created
and have their being.”

- And by your will/wish/desire they were created
KJV: “And for thy pleasure”

Theology of Joy

“God created the world not out of reason or necessity or practicality, but out of sheer joy. It is all gloriously superfluous.”

Peter Kreeft, *Heaven: The Heart's Deepest Longing* (144)

Theology of Joy

- Creation: God created from the overflow of his pleasure.

Theology of Joy

- Creation: God created from the overflow of his pleasure.
- If are trying to establish your joy (over yourself) in anything other than God's delight in you, you will ultimately be frustrated and disappointed.

Theology of Joy

- Creation
- Salvation

Micah 7.18

Who is a God like you,
who pardons sin and forgives the
transgression
of the remnant of his inheritance?
You do not stay angry forever
but delight to show mercy.

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You do not stay angry forever
but **delight to show mercy.**

Zeph. 3

Sing, Daughter Zion;

shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,

Daughter Jerusalem!

Zeph. 3

¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem,
“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.

Zeph. 3

¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

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Theology of Joy

- Creation
- Salvation

A Small Bit of My Joy

Theology of Joy

- Creation
- Salvation
- Christ's Sharing

1 Peter 4

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

2 Cor. 1

⁵ For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

Phil. 3

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Rom. 8

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—
heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if
indeed we share in his sufferings in order
that we may also share in his glory.

His Suffering and Ours

- By entering so deeply into human existence and lifting it up to the Father's presence, Jesus has taken human suffering and provided a way for it to be infused with divine meaning.

His Joy and Glory and Ours

- Christ not only shared our frailties, he shared his strength and victory with us.

Theology of Joy

- Creation
- Salvation
- Christ's Sharing of both our suffering and his ultimate victory.

1 Peter 1

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1

⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1

⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1 Peter 1

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 1

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

1 Peter 1

⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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Response to God.

The disposition of “joy in the midst of”
troubling circumstances has also become

The disposition of “joy in the midst of”
troubling circumstances is not only joy in
spite of. It has become



JOY BECAUSE OF ...

God

- He is the source of joy.
- He delighted in creating us.
- He delights in forgiving us.
- He delights in saving us.
- He delights in being with us.
- He has absorbed our sufferings into his own.
- He has offered his joy to us even now.

