



Pastor Hanke's Blog

May 6, 2018

Full of Joy

Bible Reference: John 15:9-17

What does joy look like to you? Is it like a character in a movie that is moved to tears? Is it like the commercials where the featured product makes someone's life easier and they are finally happy? Is it what you see in a restaurant full of couples and families smiling and laughing? How do you define joy & where did that definition come from? Is it a word, concept, or feeling that the world has defined for you? We can find all sorts of things the world would list as something that should make us joyful. But do they?

Add the definition of joy to the list of things we don't ask about, but instead unknowingly allow other people to shape and define for us, merely by soaking up what goes on around us. Many times we are often left confused when this definition of joy leaves our heart broken and empty. Could that really be joy?

Jesus says some powerful words about joy in the Gospel of John this week, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." What does Jesus' joy look like? What made Him joyful? If He puts His joy in us, what does that feel like?

Jesus wants to define joy in your life. This weekend we pull away from all the worldly definitions of joy, and ask the Holy Spirit to redefine joy in our lives. What can joy be when Jesus defines it?

God's Peace,

Pastor Will