



RCC Phoenix – 11.15.20 – I Choose Joy (Week 3)

The dictionary definition of joy (summary):

An emotion caused by getting what we want.

The Bible's definition of joy:

Delight; gladness

John 15:1-11 ESV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

1. Because God _____ Things _____

John 15:1-3 ESV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

The Scripture tells us that Jesus is the vine.

Most gardeners (vine dressers) do not allow more than _____ grape clusters to grow on a single vine, even if there is nothing wrong with the grapes being removed.

This is done so the _____ are condensed into the remaining grape clusters and produce the best juice.

The word pruning / purging means:

- to cleanse filth / impurity
- to prune trees and vines from useless shoots

There are times where God, the Master Gardener, will remove things from our life that might _____ to be good.

If we are going to be true disciples of Christ, He is going to _____ things from us.

Sometimes what has to be pruned from us is our _____.

It's painful but profitable when God prunes us of:

- Old _____.
- Bad _____.
- Incorrect _____.
- Secret _____.

Thank God that He protects us from _____.

We should choose joy because every time God takes something away because we know He's not being cruel. He is taking things away that will harm us or distract from His purpose for us.

2. Because We Are _____ to the _____

John 15:4-5 ESV

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

The _____ of the vine can only be realized in the branch, if it is connected.

The branch gets its _____ to produce leaves and fruit from the vine.

Likewise, we cannot produce good fruit on our own because the _____ of the vine no longer flows through us.

Staying connected to God has nothing to do with us liking the other _____.

People who choose to go their own _____ easily descend into anger, hatred, sorrow, despair and defeat because they are not yet, or no longer, connected to the vine.

People who reject the vine (Jesus) are essentially attached to _____.

Jesus is willing to _____ any man or woman who wants to be grafted back into the vine.

The goodness of God should begin to flow out of us _____ the longer we are connected to Him.

We should choose joy, because we are connected to the true vine, the source of all life, Jesus Christ!

3. Because We _____ in _____

John 15: 7-10 ESV

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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.

Definition of Biblical Word "Abide":

- to _____, to not depart
- to be held continually
- remain as one
- not becoming another or _____

When we produce fruit, it is _____ we are His Disciples.

We're not instructed to simply _____ to what someone says; we're instructed to evaluate their _____.

John 15:11 ESV

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

When _____ joy is in us, our joy can be _____.

When I choose joy, I'm choosing _____!