

## REJOICING LOVE

I once sat in a youth rally where a presenter started off his presentation with scenes from some of the most popular horror movies of the time. Kids erupted in laughter and shouting. At one point, a gross majority clapped as death was imminent for innocent victims.

There was a long pause at the end, and he asked, "How can you cheer and clap? How can you smile and rib your buddy? How can you celebrate and rejoice over that which is opposite of your King?" The room fell silent.

### **1 Corinthians 13:6.**

*Love...<sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

Paul tells us the same is true of love. It cannot find joy in selfishness (seeking the wants, pleasures, and agenda of self) or manifestations that are unrighteous, wicked, or unjust. Moreover, people directed by agape love cannot proclaim favor, approval, or entertainment from that sort of thing. On the other hand, agape love rejoices in something much greater. Truth. This word Paul uses in verse 6 means "the content of Christianity as the ultimate truth." A deeper dive points us toward the gospel message.

### **Colossians 1:4-5**

*because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel*

In addition, John describes Jesus as the true light (Jn. 1:9), true food (Jn. 6:32,55), and the true vine (Jn. 15:1). Moreover, Jesus say of himself, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). Put this together, and we can see that love rejoices in more than the words but the gospel in action. Basically, love doesn't find pleasure in the oppressive selfishness of man but rather in the redemptive work of our Lord through the sacrificial death of Jesus. In Christ alone. Agape love celebrates the result of Jesus colliding with the world as he redeems sinners from death to life. Living into that redemptive work in our everyday lives and seeking the wholeness of our family, friends, neighbors, and even our enemies is the greatest form of agape love. And rejoicing echoes from his people, despite the hardship they might experience, because Jesus is Lord, and only HE SAVES!

In a world obsessed with seeking the feel-good experience of life and relationships, we often get distracted from what life is all about. Are you rejoicing in the truth of Jesus Christ and seeking that same blessing for those around you?

Lord Jesus, heal and redeem as only you can. Work mightily in our lives, families, congregations, and communities. Give us eyes to see the truth of the Gospel and to rejoice at your awesome work as you redeem! Please, fill our hearts with rejoicing agape love.

Eyes up,  
Ryan