



Easter: For You

April 3 & 4, 2021 Message Notes

1 JOHN 1:1-4

It is not uncommon to think that if we place our lives in God's hands, He's going to ruin our fun, steal our joy, and slap a bunch of rules in our lives. And yet, in Scripture we read Jesus came that *his joy might be in us and our joy be full*. This Easter, how do we join in the joy of Jesus?



NOTES

“Fear not! He is not here! He is risen as He said.”

MATTHEW 28:5-7

We often think that if we place our lives in God's hands, He's going to steal our joy, ruin our fun, strap us in a spiritual straight jacket and slap a bunch of rules on our lives – basically in the hole you go.

Jesus said he came that his “joy might be in us and our joy be full.”

JOHN 15:11

In a world where it feels like everybody's focused on the negative, God is saying: up from the grave he arose and his joy can be your joy, too. – from “Low, In The Grave He Lay” by Robert Lowry

What joy? The joy of being loved by God, the joy of life beyond death, the joy of being heaven-bound.

“We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.”

“This one who is life itself was revealed to us and we have seen him and we now testify and proclaim him to you that he is the one who is eternal life.”

“We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

“We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy.”

1 John 1:1-4

We join in the joy of Jesus in four ways:

1. **The Joy of Beholding – Jesus, God in the flesh.** We remember what He has done and experience His presence with us.
2. **The Joy of Believing – Jesus, our Savior.** He paid the penalty in full for our sins with his blood on the cross and then put the pieces of our broken relationship with God back together.
3. **The Joy of Belonging – Jesus, our partner with power.** God is on your side, in the yoke with you, bringing his power to your aid and others. We do God's life together.

“Absent from the body, present with the Lord.”



Jesus said he was to going to prepare a place for us and, if he goes, he's coming again to receive us so that where he is, we may be, too. (John 14:2-3)

4. **The Joy of Becoming – Jesus, the completer of authentic joy.** We're not there yet but we're on our way. What makes our joy complete is fellowship with the Father and the Son and with each other.

A fellowship of the flawed. A fellowship of grace.

Thank God for the joy of forgiveness and for the joy of God's patience and kindness.

Some people feel like all Christians are hypocrites. There's a difference between a Christian who fails to meet your expectations and a hypocrite who on purpose wears a mask, whose walk intentionally doesn't match their talk.

Being a Christian isn't about living free from all slip-ups and inconsistencies. Authentic Christians are imperfect human beings who are works in progress on display.

Thank God for the joy of growth in God's image.

Don't judge the composer (God) or the music by the failed performance of some of his kids.

Let the joy of Jesus find you.

Nobody is beyond God's reach and care. If you ask him, he will find you.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any one hears my voice and opens the door I will come in."

REVELATION 3:20

