



LOVE REJOICES IN TRUTH

1 Corinthians 13:6, *Love does not take pleasure in wrongdoing but joyfully celebrates truth.*

- ✳ **Rejoice** | χαίρω: “To be in a state of happiness and well-being, *rejoice, be glad*” (BDAG).
- ✳ **Evil** | ἀδικία: “The quality of injustice, unrighteousness, wickedness” (BDAG).
- ✳ **Truth** | ἀλήθεια: “The content of what is true: especially of the content of Christianity as the ultimate truth” (BDAG).

KNOW THE TRUTH

- ✳ **God Loves In Perfect Truth.** | Although God’s ways are above our ways, He makes known His truth to us in the Bible and the Spirit of Truth.

Psalms 25:14, *The Lord confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.*

Psalms 89:14, *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.*

Isaiah 55:6-9, *Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Hosea 14:9, *Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.*

RESPOND TO THE TRUTH

- ✳ **Loving God means** | we worship God in truth.

Luke 19:1-10, *Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

- * **Zaccheus Observation #1** | Zaccheus responds to truth in joy
- * **Zaccheus Observation #2** | Zaccheus responds to truth with action
- * **Zaccheus Observation #3** | Zaccheus responds to truth in his context

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

- * **Loving others means** | we celebrate the good stuff in the lives of others.

GROWING AS A TRUTH-REJOICER

1. GROWING IN JOY

Psalm 118:24, *This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Romans 12:12, *Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.*

- * **We can grow in our rejoicing!** Love loves rejoicing. Growth in this area should naturally lead to celebrating what God is doing in the world, in our lives, and in those around us.

2. GROWING IN TRUTH

Romans 12:9, *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.*

Hebrews 5:12-14, *You need milk, not solid food, for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

- * "...Christians should mature rather than settle for infancy. These Christians [Hebrews] needed to move beyond the foundational things and the old covenant of their former Judaism. Foundations are good and necessary for building, but once they have been laid, they do not need to be laid again. The author exhorts his congregation to stop laying the same foundation repeatedly. Instead, they are encouraged to build on the foundation." - Albert Mohler Jr.

- * **We can grow in the knowledge of truth!** Spiritual discernment grows as we become more informed in Christ.

3. GROWING IN PRACTICE

1 John 3:18, *Little children, let us love not in word and speech, but in action and truth.*

Ephesians 4:22-23, *"To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

- * **We can grow in our walking!** Christians don't just *know* the truth they live it out in action. Rejoicing in truth will mean speaking and living in a way that demonstrates the good news of Jesus.

4. GROWING IN COMMUNITY

Proverbs 13:20, *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

Romans 12:15, *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

- * **Growing in the overflowing!** Rejoicing with others means we'll need to be aware of the spiritual battles and victories of others. Rejoicing in truth happens best in spiritual community.