

Mature Love Defined Part 6

I. Joyful (Gladness and Rejoicing)

- Love is not provoked (1 Cor. 13:5)
 - A. The God who created the cosmos and who orchestrated and leads history with all power and perfection is filled with Joy and delight over His creation. He took great delight in making His creation and is filled with gladness as He thinks about where our future with Him is headed.
 - B. This characteristic (Joy) of God's love and nature is very much overlooked and shrouded in unbelief. We usually think of Him as unattached and stoic or even worse, as downcast and disappointed in how everything He created is turning out.
 - C. Scripture after scripture speaks to us about a God who is hopeful, loving, glad, and rejoicing as He rules over all things. His heart is engaged and energized with zeal for the joy that is set before Him.
 - 1. Synonyms of Joyful - Cheerful, ecstatic, elated, festive, upbeat, delighted, and merry
 - 2. Antonyms of Joyful - Depressed, down, sad, unhappy, unpleasant, and troubled

II. The Joy of our Father

- A. The self-sufficiency of God must cause us to take another look at why He is compelled to do anything. The only biblical, and logical answer is that He wants to.
 - 1. (Gen. 1-2, Numbers 14:8, Ps. 105:41-45, 115:3, Is. 53:10-11, 1 Cor. 15:38)
- B. His joyful heart of Love: (Deut. 30:9, 1 Cron. 16:23-27, Ps. 4:7, 16:11, 105:43, Is. 62:4-5, Jer. 32:41, Luke 15)

III. The Joy of the Messiah

- A. The recorded Joy: (Ps. 45:7, John 15:11, 17:13)
- B. The presumed Joy: (Mat. 9:10-11, 14:13, Luke 9:11,15:1, 18:15, John 4:7-30)
- C. The coming Joy: (SOS 3:11, Zep 3:17, Is. 65:19, Rom 15:13)