

Love Rejoices in the Truth

I Corinthians 13:6

When Jesus Christ gets a hold of our lives, He transforms us into people who love others like Jesus loves us. *“By your love, all people will know you are my disciples”* (John 13:35). This love that He grants us is described in I Corinthians 13 using 15 different phrases; eight of them are negative (**“love does not...”**) and seven of them are positive (**“love is...”**). Verse six is the only verse that gives a negative and a positive together. *“Love does **not** rejoice in unrighteousness **but** (love) rejoices with the truth.”* This description of “rejoicing in the truth” is multi-faceted.

I. Christ’s people delight in the truth.

That is the practical application for us. We are truth tellers and truth lovers; we love truth. “There are (seven) things which the Lord hates . . . a lying tongue” (Prov. 6:16-17). “Lying is an abomination to the Lord” (Prov. 12:22). The new self, created after the likeness of God (Ephesians 4:24) brings a desire for truth: *“Therefore, having put away lying”* (Ephesians 4:25).

II. Christ’s people determine not to hide.

It is this determination not to hide that comes closest to the original meaning of our text. Truth (Gk. “alethia”) means - “a” – **not**; “lethe” – **hide**; i.e., “to not forget or hide.” In ancient Greek mythology Lethe was the daughter of Eris, goddess of strife and discord. Lethe was known for her sleeping and hiding in the shadows. She is often contrasted to the goddess of memory and light – Mnemosyne. The Greeks named a river “Lethe” that flows through the Hades. The Greeks believed that souls were made to drink from Lethe before reincarnation so they would not remember their past lives. Forgetting and concealing was thought “good.” But for the Christian it is the little “a” (**not**) before “lethe” that describes who we are.

A. The root of daydreaming and fantasy is forgetting.

When Jesus begins a work in us, He lets us get a grip on reality and rejoice! The idea that you need greener or different pastures to be happy is not reality.

B. The need to conceal or hide reveals something is not right.

Have you ever noticed that “unrighteousness” (something not right) is compared to “truth.” That seems odd except that the crooked seek to hide and to conceal. “For we are children of the light and day, not of the night and darkness” (I Thessalonians 5:5).

C. Not hiding leads to transparent and authentic relationships.

This is who I am. This is what I’ve done. This is where I’ve been.
This is me – in Christ.

III. Christ’s people draw truth and life from Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). What does this mean? “The way to live life without forgetting your past or hiding your present is to know Me.”

A. Jesus is the answer for the guilt you feel – every single wrong act, paid for by Him.

B. Jesus is the answer for the love you need – every single human being is seeking it. “What a man desires is steadfast love” (Proverbs 19:22).

C. Jesus is the answer for the doubt you face – His plans for you are good (Jer. 29:11). You and I can embrace our lives when we know Jesus knows us and loves us.