

I. Introduction

What is a killjoy?

- a person who deliberately spoils the enjoyment of others through overly sober behavior.
- synonyms: damper, party pooper

Do you think being a Christian is like being a killjoy?

- If you do then you don't properly understand who Christ is and the benefits of being united to him. Because being united to Christ is supremely better than everything.
- John Piper- "God is not a killjoy; he just opposes what kills joy."

What do you find joy in? In what or whom do you find fulfillment?

- If you have (and you have) tried or are trying to find joy in someone or something else other than Christ, then you have bought into a lie (Think about the message of commercials and advertisement).
- The general lie that you have bought into is that you can be fulfilled by something other than Christ. That is to say you don't need Christ. *Why is it a lie?*

Honestly, do you think you don't need Christ? Functionally, do you live like it is true?

"We make a god out of whatever we find most joy in. So find your joy in God and be done with all idolatry."

- Paul says joy is found in:
 - Being consumed by Christ. *What do you think being consumed by Christ means?*
 - Being consumed by Christ means that he is in our every thought. Seeing Christ in everything. Looking for opportunities to become more like him.
 - *What is life like when you are consumed by a girl or guy? A sport? Lifestyle? School?*
 - "We should be preoccupied with Christ, see him in everything, in nature, human relationships, triumphs, sorrows. That is the secret to true happiness."
- Obedience.
- Specifically, caring for others.
 - Take a look at **verses 3-11**. By being in Christ, it changed the way Paul and the folks in Philippi thought of one another and treated one another. They cared intimately for one another. If you keep reading until the end, it will be confirmed over and over again. *Do you think of your brothers and sisters in Christ this way?*

II. Lesson

Read Philippians 1:1-11

We get the main theme here in the first two verses.

- *What is significant about repetition? When your mom or teacher repeats something to you, what does the emphasis tell you?*

Repetition emphasizes importance. *Whose name is repeated here?* Christ. *How is His name used?*

Christ is central to this letter because Christ is the very life of Paul and Christians in Philippi. *Guess what?* This letter is relevant to you and me because Christ is still life.

- *What does it mean that Christ is my life? That He is the center of my life?*
 - One way to describe it is the way Paul used the phrase, servant of Christ. *What does it mean to be a servant?*
 - Paul points to the *total subjection* to the will of a servant's master. Servants were not autonomous. They were subject to the one who owned them. Paul sees this type of submission by Christ in **Chapter 2** with Christ submission to God the Father. **Read it.**
 - Unlike the human experience of servanthood, Paul considers being a servant of Christ a high privilege. *Why is such a high privilege to be a servant of Christ?*
 - "There is no one greater to serve than the one who was exalted by God and will be universally acclaimed Lord of all." He is the Supreme, High King over all things and He has called us to be in His service.
 - Being a servant of Christ, you are free to be *who God created you to be*. Free to love, serve, give. Obedience to Christ is the life of joy and peace and satisfaction.
 - Obedience to your sinful desires/ doing what you want is slavery. This is contrary to what culture teaches you. It teaches be who you are and feed whatever desire you have. It teaches autonomy.
 - "Being who you are are" is not freedom, it is slavery. Being who God created you to be is freedom. God created us to be servants of Christ.

III. Now What?

Paul explains how being united to Christ changes the way we live. We care for others. Caring for others before yourself is the fruit of the righteous of Christ. It is the work of self-forgetfulness.

"The really wonderful moments of joy in this world are not moments of self-satisfaction but self-forgetfulness."

When I want to be like someone, I want to know everything about that person and be able to emulate every move and thought (This is exactly what advertisement connects with). Like Paul, I want to be like Christ so in the moment of temptation I choose Christ and righteousness and say no to my sinful longing to be autonomous.

Inclusion: If you have someone who does not look like you standing off to the side, you have a choice to make. *Do I risk being left behind by my friends to serve this lonely person or do I ignore him or her because I am comfortable right here hanging with my friends and not missing out?*

That is not easy. If this is joy then it requires work to maintain it because finding joy in Christ is a "fight against every impulse for alien joys and every obstacle in the way to seeing and savoring Christ." - John Piper

