

PARTY GOD
Finding Joy – Part 1
May 29, 2016

DEFINITION: “JOY is choosing to be cheerful or encouraged regardless of circumstances.”

WHAT’S THE SOURCE OF JOY?

John 16:33b (NKJV) *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*

John 17:13 (NIV) *“I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them.”*

GOD is the source of joy for Jesus and for us.

Many would say: “God = KILL - joy.”

GOD GETS A BAD RAP...

1. The Bible deals with the **MORAL**
FAILURE of “*The Fall.*”
2. God *does* **JUDGE** those who intentionally turn away from Him.
3. Some people think **REVERENCE**
means “*solemn and silent.*”
4. Some people create tighter moral
BOUNDARIES than God has.

THE REST OF THE STORY...

1. The Bible is *not* the WHOLE story of God.

Genesis 1:10b (NIV) *“And God saw that it was good.”*

Job 38:6-7 (NIV) *“On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone--⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”*

2. God is throwing a PARTY and you're invited!

Luke 14:21-23 (NLT) *“The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, ‘Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’²² After the servant had done this, he reported, ‘There is still room for more.’²³ So his master said, ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’ ”*

Luke 15:10 (NLT) *“In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.”*

3. Jesus kept the party GOING by turning water into wine!

John 2:9-10 (NIV) *“And the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine... Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, ‘Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.’ ”*

John 2:11 (NIV) *“What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which He revealed His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”*

4. Jesus was a FRIEND of the party crowd.

Luke 5:30-32 (NIV) *“But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to His disciples, ‘Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’³¹ Jesus answered them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.’ ”*