

"REJOICE ... WEEP ... HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER"

INTRODUCTION

(Rms. 12:15-16) "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, weep with them that weep.

Be of the same mind one toward another ... "

(RSV: "Live in harmony with one another")

(1 Peter 3:8) "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous ... "

It's a lesson on "empathy" - put yourself in the other's place (if it was happening to you, what would be your reaction?); share in another's emotions, thoughts, or feelings; sympathy being demonstrated.

1. "REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE"

We need this admonition because sometimes another's rejoicing causes us to envy:
(Prov. 14:30) "... envy is the rottenness of the bones."

"Rejoice" - happy in the well-being of another; share joy; not indifferent to their joy.

(Luke 15:6) "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost"
(v9) "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost"
(v10) "is joy in the presence of angels of God over one sinner that repents"
(v32) "was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found"

2. "WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP"

Two reasons Jesus went to Bethany at the death of Lazarus: (John 11:11) "I go, that I may awake him out of sleep" and (v35) "Jesus wept"

Jesus didn't need to be present to raise Lazarus: (John 4:46-54; Mtt. 8:5-13)

Hymn #709 How Sweet, How Heavenly

3. "BE OF THE SAME MIND ONE TO ANOTHER"

This is not (1 Cor. 1:10) "that ye all speak the same thing ... ;" rather, it is our concern for the community of believers and caring for one another, pity and compassion.

4. NOT ALL WILL HEED THE ADMONITION: (3 John v9) Diotrephes.

(Phil. 4:2) Euodias and Syntyche. (Acts 5:1) Ananias and Sapphira.

(2 Tim. 4:10) Demas. (2 Tim. 2:16-17) Hymenaeus and Philetus.