

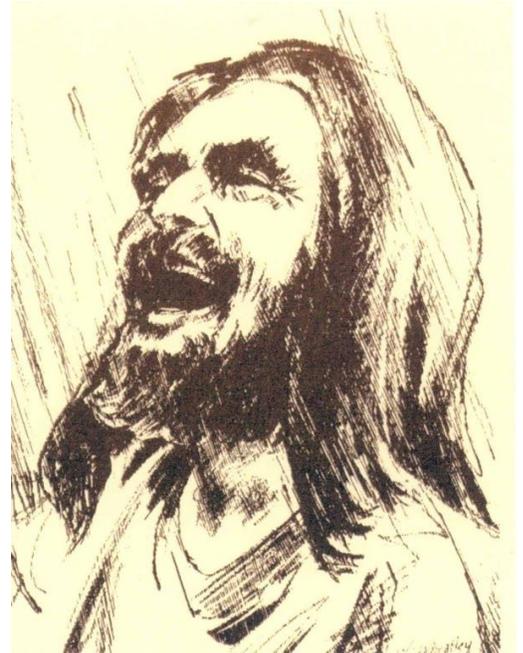
Whatever is Lovely

Ephesians 1:3-10, Philippians 4:8-9, 2 Timothy 3:1-5

February 9, 2020

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Who or what sparks joy or delight in you? Why?
2. What does it mean to delight in something or someone?
3. What was your reaction to the picture of the “laughing Jesus” that Pastor Jason showed? Is it surprising to imagine that God laughs with joy?
4. Pastor Jason talked about how delight is often associated with pleasure. At first blush, is pleasure something you associate with your relationship with God? Why or why not?



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Philippians 4:8-9. Why might Paul include the virtue of lovely in what we are to meditate on? How does this relate to our understanding of God's character? What might God deem as lovely?
2. Does loveliness or delight have to be experienced in the context of relationships? How can it exist in solitary activities, such as art, exercise, numbers, rest?
3. Why would redeeming us bring God delight when this cost so much (particularly when we are continuously disobedient and rebellious)?
4. Read Ephesians 1:3-10. What does “to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ” mean? How might it look like in our world today?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. We are told that God delights in us. How have you experienced this?
2. The Greek word for “lovely” is *prosofile*, translated “oriented towards love.” How does one “orient” ourselves towards love? Is this in our control or power?
3. Pastor Jason encouraged us to experience God's loveliness by connecting with someone this week. If you've already done so, how was your time? If not yet, or if you're still figuring it out, take some time to pray with your group about who this might be.
4. Many associate Christians with abstinence from pleasure (and our churches work extra hard to have activities to prove them wrong). Are there ways to live into God's pleasure that are accessible to others who don't share our beliefs?