



Chapter Ten — *Love Does Not Rejoice in Wrong* (1 Corinthians 13:6)

“[Love] does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.” — 1 Corinthians 13:6

Big Idea

Love refuses to celebrate another person’s failure and chooses compassion over quiet satisfaction.

Paul now takes us into the hidden places of the heart. Love not only governs our outward behavior—it reshapes our inner reactions. **Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing.**

This speaks to those subtle moments when someone who hurt us stumbles... and part of us feels justified.

The original language describes taking pleasure in another person’s misfortune—especially when we believe they “had it coming.” Love rejects that impulse. It does not gloat. It does not savor consequences. It does not quietly cheer when someone falls.

Instead, love aligns itself with God’s heart.

God does not delight in punishment. He longs for repentance, restoration, and healing. Every one of us stands where we are only because of mercy. When we remember how much grace we’ve received, it becomes harder to take pleasure in someone else’s pain.

Love doesn’t say, *They deserved it.*
Love says, *I hope they’re restored.*

Rather than celebrating failure, love mourns over sin's damage and prays for redemption. And while love refuses to rejoice in wrongdoing, it *does* rejoice in truth—when repentance happens, when grace transforms, and when God brings light into dark places.

This kind of love replaces judgment with humility and revenge with mercy.

Practical Takeaways

- Love seeks restoration, not retribution.
- Love prays instead of gloating.
- Love replaces satisfaction over failure with compassion.
- Love remembers its own need for grace.
- Love celebrates truth, healing, and transformation.

Ways to practice love that does not rejoice in wrong:

- Pray for people who stumble—especially those who have hurt you.
- Pay attention to your inner dialogue when others fail.
- Replace thoughts of “payback” with prayers for restoration.
- Refuse to spread news of someone’s mistake.
- Keep your own forgiven sins in clear view.

When we rejoice in truth instead of wrongdoing, our hearts become safer places for God’s grace to grow.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you ever find yourself having “secret celebrations” in your heart when something bad happens to someone who wronged you?
2. How does Romans 12:19 change your perspective on justice?
3. Who in your life needs you to pray for their restoration rather than their ruin?
4. What’s one way you can rejoice with the truth this week instead of rejoicing in wrong?
5. When someone disappoints or fails, what is usually your first internal response—and how might God be inviting you to change that?