

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – December 19, 2021**

**Theme: Love: A More Excellent Way    Topic: Love finds its joy in doing good**

**Main Text: Romans 12:9-21; 1 John 4:7-11**

**Key verse: Romans 12:9** *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.” (NIV)*

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**INTRODUCTION:** According to the dictionary, to *do good* is to act virtuously, especially by helping others. It is to make a helpful contribution to a situation. And we find that doing good' is a major theme of the Bible as God to repeatedly invite, and even command believers to participate in it. Popular examples include, *“Turn away from evil and do good”* (Psalm 34:14a); *“Trust in the Lord and do good”* (Psalm 37:3); *“do good to those who hate you”* (Luke 6:27b), *“whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone”* (Galatians 6:10); *“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds...”* (1 Timothy 6:18). Not only is the Bible replete with the invitation, and even command to do good, our topic today invites us to find joy in doing good.

1. **To find joy in doing a thing is to relish doing that thing, to cherish, delight in that thing, to take immense pleasure in it. (a) How is simply doing good different from relishing doing good? (b) Think of some good you relished doing. How was this good different from other good you had done? (c) Luke 12:32 and Ephesians 1:5 point to some good God relished in doing for us. What do you observe from these passages to suggest that God is delighted to do them?**

When it comes to love, we are given no other example than God and His love demonstrated in Christ Jesus (1 John 4:7-11). Therefore, in the matter of finding joy in doing good, we see that *“God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.”* (Ephesians 1:5 NLT). To adopt us into His family was something God desired and decided to do way ahead of time and all by Himself. No wonder our key verse says, *‘Love must be sincere...’* Something is sincere when it proceeds from the genuine feelings, is free from pretense. Synonyms for sincere include ‘genuine,’ ‘wholehearted.’ And that is the way God loves us and the way He calls us to love others.

2. **(a) Let participants give examples of how love can be insincere. (b) Love is not natural as finding joy in doing good is not. What are some ways Romans 12:10-14 can help us cultivate the habit of finding joy in doing good? (c) What more can we learn from the example of the Churches in Macedonia and Achaia? See Romans 15:26; 2 Corinthians 8:3-4**

The point had earlier been made that God’s kind of love is an act of the will that does what is best for another person with no thought for personal gain. If loving like this is hard, then imagine the idea of finding joy in doing good to others in a world where people are categorized and defined by their economic, social, or religious status, by their privileges, accomplishments, etc. Not to mention the challenge posed by our sinful nature (1 Peter 1:22-23). Doing good is a MUST (Titus 3:14) and a command (1 Timothy 6:18). No wonder God warns us not to become weary in doing good (Galatians 6:9). But more than that, the call here is to, despite the obstacles, grow to the point where we do good not just as an act of obedience to God, but as something we savor doing, like God our Father does.

3. **(a) Who are those we are less likely to derive pleasure in doing good to? (b) According to Romans 12:9, 14,16-17, 19,21, what are possible reasons why we struggle to find joy in doing good? (c) What remedy does Romans 12:19-21 and 1 John 4:9-11 offer?**

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**Prayer:** *Dear God, You have shown me over and over that You derive immense pleasure in doing good to me. And You want me to do likewise to others. Please give me a heart that relishes in doing good to others, including my enemies. Let my light so shine before men that they might see my good deeds and praise You in Heaven, In Jesus Name, Amen.*