

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

As Christians, we look to the bible for instructions for everyday life. Now there are some things it won't tell you to do, like what restaurant to go eat at for lunch today, or what car to buy, or what job to take. But then there are other things it does give us instructions on. Things that happen to people in life every day. Take today's devotional verse for example. Have you ever considered this verse as instructions on how to respond to someone who is having a great day or a terrible day?

‡ ***Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.***

Someone loses a family member or has a loved one in the hospital, or some other tragic event just happen in their life. What instructions does the bible give us?

- Uh, quote all sorts of scriptures to them.
- Try to explain what God is doing or why He is allowing this to happen to them.
- Give them words of encouragement like, "*Hang in there, tomorrows a new day and this pain will pass.*"
- Buy him or her a sympathy card.
- Take them out and get them drunk.

These answers and maybe even more that you can think of are not what the bible tells us to do. Instead, it simply says (simply = Don't make it complicated) to ***weep with those who weep.***

Yet that sounds way to easy, so we think that we should do more, such as the examples I gave. But if you have ever had something tragic happen in your life, like lose a loved one or been diagnosed with a life threatening illness; all the bible verses, all the kind words, and all those cards are nice; but what a person really needs is a shoulder to cry on, and a ear to listen, and a mouth to stay shut (ours) as they pour their heart out. ***weep with those who weep.***

What about when something great happens, sometimes people can pretend to be happy for someone, but deep down inside, they are actually jealous and will try to bring a happy person down. But once again, what does the bible say to do? "***Rejoice with those who rejoice***" not rain on their parade. If you do rain on their parade, you are making it all about you, it's called selfishness.

What about with what is going on in the world right now, not just the USA, but the entire world; What does the bible tell us to do about that?

† **Hebrews 10:25 (NLT2)** *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.* (underlined for emphasis)

Time is short, and you can follow the crowd and post all kinds of things on social media that you want, including all your opinions. But if you check out the bible; is that what it really tells us as Christians to do? No, as we just read, it says to “*encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*”

So let's be like Moses, who gave the Children of Israel the instructions that God had for them, not the instructions Moses thought they should follow. Because honestly, I could care less what people think, but when it's God's word being quoted for instructions, that means everything to me. What about you?

† **Exodus 35:1 (NLT2)** *Then Moses called together the whole community of Israel and told them, “These are the instructions the LORD has commanded you to follow.”* (underlined for emphasis)