The Happiest Place on Earth

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INTRODUCTION

- But what I think the happiest place on earth ought to be is the church I assemble with every week.
- I want to begin this morning by just focusing on a couple of things that shouldn't be found in the church that can destroy our happiness, things that get in the way.

1 The Church Should Be a Place With No Sorrow

Revelation 21:4; Isaiah 25:8; Romans 12:15

- The church should be a place where there is no sorrow.
- Isaiah 25 and verse 8, everybody agrees is a prophecy about the church, not heaven.
- In the church we should find a place where our tears are taken away from us.
- In times of trouble, in times of sorrow, you cannot find comfort anywhere else like you can find among God's people.

2 No Conflict in the Church: We Are One

Ephesians 2:13–16

- The second thing that shouldn't be found in the church is conflict.
- Can we just stop dividing over everything? Can we realize that there's a lot of things that there's more than one way to do it and still be right?
- Another part of the purpose of Jesus' sacrifice was to be able to bring people from all areas of life, from all backgrounds and cultures, and bring them together in one flesh in one body that has no conflict.
- The church is where the walls are lowered and there are no barriers.

3 Personal Conflict: Go Fix It

Matthew 5:23–24; Matthew 18

- Sometimes it's conflict that you and I create with each other.
- If you are offering your gift at the altar and remember your brother has something against you, leave your gift there.
- God says, do not worship me till you fix that.
- If it's not important enough to you to resolve it, then it's not important enough for you to remember.

4 When We Come Together, We Find Joy and Encouragement

Hebrews 10:24–25

- The world's going to provide enough sorrow and discouragement, isn't it?
- And in contrast, when we come together, we find joy and encouragement.
- Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

- You don't come to church because you have to. But you come to the assemblies because you find in there a refuge from the darkness of this world.

5 Joy Comes From Each Other

John 16:20–24; 1 Corinthians 12:12–26

- There's a part of your joy that comes from your relationship with God. But there is also a part of joy that comes from each other.
- If one member suffers, all suffer together. If one member is honored, all rejoice together.
- There's no appendix in the church. We need every part.
- We find the light in all the saints, that we are each other's source of delight and joy.

6 Every Joint: The Relationships That Hold Us Together

Ephesians 4:15–16

- From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so it builds itself up in love.
- What every joint supplies is not each member, but rather how the members work together.
- You can have all the parts. But if you don't have the relationships to join the parts together, it doesn't work.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **You can give that to the people in your life for free. Real happiness. A family that loves them, that wipes away their tears, that when there is a problem resolves it and resolves it quickly, that seeks peace.**

MY NOTES