



Great Joy and Great Sorrow

Robert Morris

Focus Christians are the only people who can grieve and rejoice at the same time because we always have hope in Jesus Christ. Our sorrow for those without Christ can turn into joy at their salvation.

Fun Summer is almost over. Allow everyone to share for two minutes about their “thumbs-up” and “thumbs-down” moments this summer.

Review Key Scriptures: *Romans 9:1–3; Ephesians 2:12; John 3:16–18*

1. Condition

In Romans 9:1, Paul writes that he carries a huge sorrow because he understands the condition of people without Christ. We must not forget what it is like to have no hope and no relationship with God. Through social media, it may appear as if lost people have incredible lives filled with joy. But the reality is people without Christ have no hope and no lasting joy.

2. Condemnation

The word *condemnation* means “a sentence of death.” However, there is no death sentence for the believer because Christ took the punishment for our sins. Christ doesn’t come to condemn us; He comes to save us. God sent His Son so no one would have to go to hell, but each person has freedom to choose Christ or condemnation.

3. Compassion

If we have great sorrow for the lost, then we'll have great joy when they accept Christ. But we first need to have the sorrow that Paul felt. It's a God-given burden, but Jesus told us His yoke is easy and His burden is light. God's burden is bearable because He bears it with us. Compassion is love in action.

Group Dynamics Idea Try to set time aside each week to call or text the members of your group to let them know you're thinking about them and to ask them if they have any prayer requests. This is a great way to create a sense of connectedness that goes beyond the weekly group meetings.

Discuss

1. Pastor Robert said it's possible for believers to have great sorrow and great joy at the same time. Can you share an example of this?
2. Read Romans 9:1–3. What does "having great sorrow" look like for the believer according to Paul?
3. Do you relate to Pastor Robert's statement that social media presents an edited version of good moments of our lives? How does this affect how you see great joy and great sorrow?
4. Pastor Robert shared that without great sorrow we can't have great joy when a person is saved. What do you think he meant by this and how is this reflected in our lives?
5. Take a moment and ask yourself, "Who are the people God has placed in my life that I can invite to church during the next three weekends?"
6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message? Take a moment and ask God into the areas of your life that feel like dead places or places of pain that you have kept hidden behind a stone. Invite God to roll away the stone so you can be healed and set free.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- God wants us to remember the condition of the lost.
- God wants us to have great sorrow for the lost and condemned.
- God wants us to put our love into action to reach the lost.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being such a good Father to us. Thank You that not only do You want us to be Your children, but You also want us to partner with

You to reach the lost. You don't want anyone to go to hell. Help us to have great sorrow for the lost so we can also have great joy when they are saved. We ask for divine appointments this week to invite people to church during these next three weekends. Help us to be bold and to put our love into action. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip

Continually identify people in your group who might be good leaders for next semester. Many leaders step into that role because somebody believes in them, encourages them, and asks them to consider the opportunity. Be intentional about calling out leadership gifts in people.