

THE JOY OF PRESBYTERIANISM
Philippians 1:21-2:4 // May 12, 2024 AM

I. Spirit-filled elders *strive for the joy of the church* (1:21-26).

II. Spirit-filled churches *thrive unto the joy of the elders* (1:27-2:4).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What is joy? Can you distinguish between creational joy, counterfeit joy, and Christian joy? How does the pursuit of happiness drive how every person lives?
2. According to Philippians 1:25, what are the two ends of Paul's fruitful labor in the church?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:24. Why would joy be so central to gospel ministry? How do the four states of humankind (created, fallen, redeemed, and glorified) help us to understand this?
4. When Paul commands the church to "complete [his] joy" (2:2), what is he talking about? Isn't his joy rooted in Christ, not the church or his circumstances?
5. Why do faithful elders sometimes groan as they carry out their service in the church? Are groaning elders of any advantage to the church (see Heb. 13:17)?
6. How is Christ glorified in joyful leaders and laypeople?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Do I tend to view God as a kill-joy? Who is the true kill-joy, and how is God after my joy in the gospel?
2. Is the gospel ministry at Cornerstone expanding my joy in God? Why does this matter? How is joy a litmus test of the health of my soul?
3. Do I pursue after Christ, serve in the church, and relate to my elders in such a way that I'm spreading Christian joy?