The Joy of our Life Together 28 Feb 2016

1 Thessalonians 1:4-6, Hebrews 12:22-24

In 1 Thessalonians 1:4 we are called brothers and sisters loved & chosen by God. Why is it harder to accept that other people are loved & chosen than ourselves? What do I owe to someone else that God feels this way about? Why?

Few or none of us have endured the severe suffering (for the sake of the gospel) mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 1:6. Why might the joy of the Holy Spirit be associated with that? How is that an encouragement to live out closer to the edge when we share the gospel?

Hebrews 12:22-24 describes The Church as a joyful assembly with untold thousands of angels and those whose names are written in heaven. Since that is happening now how should our meetings reflect that? How should we regard one another because of that?

Read Psalm 133. How much of your joy in Jesus do you derive from other Believers?

Read 2 Corinthians 7 together and note all the relational terms (encourage, comfort). How important and strong is the network of relationships between believers in Paul’s ministry?

Describe how and why we should be risk-takers in loving and encouraging one another in Christ?