



The First Word

THE PASTOR'S PEN *(Disciples of Christ)*



January 22nd, 2018

Pastor's Pen

Mature Joy

In Eugene Peterson's, THE Message, we find these words, "I've told these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I have loved you. This is the best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends... (John 15:11a) "Remember the root command: Love one another." (John 15:17)

Do you have mature joy? As we grow older, the will of Christ is that we have mature joy. How do we cultivate joy in our life? If we want more joy, we must lay hold on joy and let it well up from within through thought, word and action.

We must realize that God is the source of real joy. We must let the mind of Christ dwell within us. We must let His love, power and joy flow through us, especially as we interact with fellow Christians.

We can stop turning our attention so far inward on our own personal universe and our problems. We can turn outward to consider others and what we can do to make their joy more complete and full. When we bring joy to others we find joy for ourselves...

Another way to increase our joy is to count our blessings and give God sincere thanks for all His blessings to us.

Love Christ, love our fellow Christians; give God thanks in mature joy for His blessings in our life.

Pastor John

