

Joy



So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.

John 16:22 (NRSV)

I have a friend named Dr. Rev. Sam Vassal, and he said to me once, “Agents of racism are themselves victims of racism, because the principality of racism seeks to destroy us all.” Today’s world makes it easy to pin brother against brother, while failing to recognize that we are all victims of racism, including racists themselves. Racism is a vehicle the enemy uses to steal the joy of all people. Not a single soul feels joy when someone hurts them with racially insensitive actions or words, but I’ve never met a joyful racist either. Racism has a tendency to suck the life out of a person because we were never meant to be the judge of anyone. The role of Judge has always belonged to God, and when we humans try to fill the position, making snappy judgements of a person’s character based on physical appearance, we forsake the role we were actually designed to play, children of God! When we choose to simply be children of God instead of individual judges, our joy returns, and not even the principality of racism can steal it! So we hope in the promises of God our Father, that he gives his children joy that no one can rob us of.

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Heavenly Father, forgive me for trying to be the judge sometimes. I choose to give you your role back as Judge, and in doing so, I choose to live only as your child instead. I pray for those who would rather play judge than child; please remind them of how joyful life can be when we submit to the role of your children.

Try to remember the most joyful moment of your childhood. You were created to live in that joy. Next time you are tempted to assume something negative about a stranger, try flashing them your biggest, brightest smile instead. Choose to see them as a fellow child of God and invite them into a moment of shared joy.

