



Love does not rejoice in evil

1 Corinthians 13:6

Breaking the Ice:

Do you ever find yourself rooting against a disliked sports team rather than root for your team?

For Reflection:

There are many of us who would be much happier if we were able to close out some of the accounts of wrongs we have been keeping for too long. Love has a way of keeping us from enjoying it when bad things happen to others. Something perverse in human nature seems to make many people more anxious to hear the bad news than the good news. But those who really love do not “rejoice in iniquity”-- K.L. Chafin & L. J. Ogilvie

Definition: Think no evil (resentful)

οὐχαίρει ἀδικία - ouchairei adikia

chairei = to enjoy a state of happiness and well-being—‘to rejoice, to be glad.¹**adika** = unjust. Injustice. What is not conformable with justice, what ought not to be, that which is wrong²

¹Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 302). New York: United Bible Societies.

²Zodhiates, S. (2000). *The complete word study dictionary: New Testament* (electronic ed.). Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers.

We know from the Scriptures we should not seek revenge (See Romans 12:19) and that God reserves the right to settle scores, but this description of love takes us to even more uncomfortable territory. We should not rejoice when' from our point of view' "pay back " occurs. While we can recognize that the calamity of another may be God's settling of a score we should realize that there are many marks on our own record that were only settled by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Such moments should be responded to with humility and respect for the holiness of God – JPW

Do you think that we often throw secret celebrations in our minds and hearts when bad things happen to those we hold as doing wrong or doing us wrong? How can we counter this in our lives?

Read: *Galatians 6:1-5*

According to this Scripture what should our attitude and approach be when another is overtaken in sin or its consequences?

How do these attitudes protect us?

Response:

Rather than focusing on the outcome of another's disobedience or injustice focus on God's mercy and our own potential imperfections.

Bottom Line:

The failure of others should serve as reminder of our need for God's love and work in our lives.