

1 Corinthians 7:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

Analysis

And they that weep, as though they wept not—Paul extends the *hōs mē* ("as not") pattern to all earthly experiences. *Klaiontes* (κλαίοντες, "weeping") represents sorrow and suffering. Believers experiencing grief should not despair, knowing present sufferings are temporary compared to eternal glory (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18). Christian hope transcends immediate circumstances.

And they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not—*chairontes* (χαίροντες, "rejoicing") represents prosperity and happiness. Even legitimate joys must not become ultimate. Earthly pleasures are fleeting; believers must not build their lives on them. The pattern continues: **and they that buy, as though they possessed not**. Material possessions are temporary; believers are stewards, not ultimate owners.

This series of contrasts establishes proper Christian detachment: engage earthly realities without being controlled by them. Weep without despair, rejoice without idolatry, possess without covetousness. This is not Stoic apathy but Christian freedom—holding earthly things loosely because heavenly realities are ultimate.

Historical Context

Stoic philosophy advocated emotional detachment and indifference to circumstances (*apatheia*). Paul's teaching is similar but distinct: Christians engage

emotions and earthly realities but are not mastered by them. Christian hope in resurrection and eternal life provides perspective that relativizes present experiences.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does holding earthly joys and sorrows loosely differ from Stoic emotional detachment?
2. What would it look like to rejoice without making joy ultimate, or to possess without being possessed by possessions?
3. How does resurrection hope enable Christians to weep "as though not weeping"?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οἱ	κλαίοντες	ὥς	μὴ	κλαίοντες	καὶ	οἱ
And	G3588	they that weep	as	not	they that weep	And	G3588
G2532		G2799	G5613	G3361	G2799	G2532	
χαίροντες	ὥς	μὴ	χαίροντες	καὶ	οἱ	ἀγοράζοντες	ὥς
they that rejoice	as	not	they that rejoice	And	G3588	they that buy	as
G5463	G5613	G3361	G5463	G2532		G59	G5613
μὴ	κατέχοντες						
not	though they possessed						
G3361	G2722						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 30:5 (Parallel theme): For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Ecclesiastes 3:4 (Parallel theme): A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

John 16:22 (Parallel theme): And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Luke 6:21 (Parallel theme): Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

Luke 6:25 (Parallel theme): Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

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