

# 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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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καὶ οἱ κλαίοντες ὡς μὴ κλαίοντες καὶ οἱ  
**And** G3588 **they that weep** **as** **not** **they that weep** **And** G3588  
G2532 G2799 G5613 G3361 G2799 G2532

χαίροντες ὡς μὴ χαίροντες καὶ οἱ ἀγοράζοντες ὡς  
**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

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**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.