

I Feel the Same Way

Romans 12:15

# I Feel the Same Way

- Rom. 12:15 - “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.”
- Empathy - “Identification with and understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives. The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.” (*Merriam-Webster*)

# Delineating Empathy

- Compared to sympathy
  - Sympathy - An inclination to support or be loyal to or to agree with an opinion or position
  - Empathy - Understanding and entering into another's feelings. One may be sympathetic while not empathetic; it requires a deeper emotional involvement and commitment than sympathy

# Delineating Empathy

- Empathy's place in the church
  - 1Cor. 12:26 - "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."
  - "This command grows out of the doctrine stated in Romans 12:4-5, that the church is one; that it has one interest; and therefore that there should be common sympathy in its joys and sorrows." (Barnes Notes)
  - Rom. 12:4-5 - "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

# Demonstrating Empathy

- Rejoicing with those who rejoice
  - Luke 1:57-58 - “Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. 58 When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her.”
  - Acts 11:22-23 - “Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord.”
  - Sharing in one other’s happiness and success without envy or jealousy

# Demonstrating Empathy

- Weeping with those who weep
  - Psalm 35:13-14 - “But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart. 14 I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother.”
  - John 11:33-35 - “Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, Where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept.”

# Demonstrating Empathy

- Weeping with those who weep
  - 2Cor. 11:29 - “Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation?”
  - Heb. 13:3 - “Remember the prisoners as if chained with them--those who are mistreated--since you yourselves are in the body also.”
  - How can we rise above simple sympathy for others to become empathetic?

# Developing Empathy

- Transformation by the renewing of our minds (changing our way of thinking)
  - Rom. 12:1-3, 10 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith... 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.”

# Developing Empathy

- Taking on the mind of Christ
  - Phil. 2:1-5 - “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”
  - As one develops the mind of Christ, there will be no envy or jealousy to prevent true empathy. We will experience a true feeling with others.

# Developing Empathy

- Jesus knows what we are going through. He has been here and felt that
  - Heb. 4:15-16 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
  - Heb. 2:18 - “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”