

# God's Come-As-You-Are Party!

## Introduction – Welcome To “Church”!

Matthew 18:20  
1 Corinthians 3:16-17

## Leave It At The Door

SAY GOODBYE TO...

1. G \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 2:13-14  
1 John 1:9  
Romans 8:1

2. F \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:11  
1 John 4:18

3. R \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 23:4  
Matthew 11:28-30

## Embracing Joy

John 15:11; Acts 13:52; 16:22-25; Colossians 2:20; Romans 5:1-5

HOW WE HOLD ON TO PAIN...

- By focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ more than \_\_\_\_\_.  
Luke 13:1-5
- By coddling \_\_\_\_\_ fantasies.  
Romans 12:19-21
- By refusing to lift our \_\_\_\_\_.  
Hebrews 12:2

## Ingredients Of A Good Party

- 1) A Celebratory \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Everybody \_\_\_\_\_ something.
- 3) A mix of celebration and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) The crowd is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) You're free to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 9:12

## Conclusion – A Safe Place To Laugh

Romans 15:13; John 16:24

## HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

WARMING UP...

1. After reviewing your study notes, talk about what one thing in this week's message most encouraged or challenged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read the story of the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15:11-32**. a) List and discuss the ways that the younger brother insults his Father. Do you see yourself in any of these situations today? b) List and discuss the ways that the Father graces *both* of his sons. Are there some ways you resist his grace in your life? c) List the ways the older brother (representing the religious leaders) distances himself from the grave of the Father, the fellowship of the family, and the fun of the party. Are there ways in your life that you tend to be more like the older brother, resisting the "music and dancing" of extravagant grace?

SO WHAT?...

3. What is one practical thing you could begin to do to contribute, not only to your own experience of joy, but also to others' experience of joy at The Meeting House?

*Bruxy Cavey @ The Meeting House, Sunday, May 4, 2002*