Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth
Pancras of Rome

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1 Corinthians 13:6 “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”



I’m Cameron and I’m fourteen years old. Do you remember when you were fourteen? Think about what life was like. The people you wanted to be friends with. The things you worried about. Wanting to fit in and be accepted.

Imagine yourself being fourteen in Rome, in the fourth century - 1,700 years ago. This is the story of a 14 year old boy named Pancras. Both his parents died when he was a child, and he lived with his uncle. Together, they came to Rome, where Pancras became a Christian.

Think about that for a moment. He could have asked why God let his parents die. Why hard things happened to him. He could have wondered - does God really loved me. Yet, Pancras came to believe in the truth of Jesus and the love that took Christ to the cross to save believers. His faith mattered to him, even though following Jesus in Rome was dangerous. Christians were being persecuted, and people were expected to honour the Roman gods. Pancras didn’t rejoice in the evil of these false gods, but with the true love of Jesus.

Reflective questions — When you were fourteen, who did you turn to when life was difficult? Did you have faith? And if you had experienced the kind of loss Pancras did, would you have found it easy to trust that God loved you?

Reflective pause — 30 seconds

Pancras’ faith grew, but so did the danger of being a Christian. During the persecution under Emperor Diocletian, Pancras was found out and brought before the emperor himself. Imagine that moment. You are fourteen years old, standing before the most powerful man in the Roman Empire. This man has the power to decide whether you live or die.

The emperor tried to persuade Pancras to renounce his faith. He offered him favour and the chance of a future if he would simply deny Christ. Pancras was young. He could have said the words the emperor wanted to hear. He could have walked away and lived. But he refused to deny Jesus.

The traditional account says that he was beheaded. He was fourteen years old - the same age as me! Christians have remembered him for centuries as a young person who stood by his faith when the pressure to abandon it could hardly have been greater.

Paul writes that love “does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.” The story of Pancras leaves us with a difficult question: what happens when standing by what we believe is right means risking the acceptance, security or future we desperately want?

Reflective question — Is there something you believe is right, but you find it difficult to stand by because you are afraid? What might help you find the courage to remain faithful when the pressure feels overwhelming?

Reflective pause — 30 seconds

Let the example of Pancras remind us that courage and faith are not limited by age. May we find the strength to stand by the truth, even when doing so is difficult.