

GOD LOVES

It is important to know that God hates and loves. God's love is not just how He **feels** but is also how He **thinks** of and **acts** toward us. For example, God loves the world (sinners; Jn. 3:16). God does not **feel** "giddy and warm" about sinners, but He **thinks** about their needs and **acts** to provide what is best. So, He sent Jesus to die, live, and rule.

Our feelings (emotions) often conflict with God's thoughts, and we must choose which will direct our actions. Jesus said to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44). This is not how to *feel* about them but how we *think* of and *act* toward them. If they are hungry—feed them. If they are lost in sin—teach them. If they are teaching error—rebuke them. YES, rebuking error is the result of the love of God, and Jesus and His apostles did it (Matthew 15, 23; Colossians 2). That is why these articles often warn of modern error. If you believe error, we want you to escape it through God's truth. If we are in error, we hope you will tell us. This is God's loves in action. Call or write us with comments or questions.

[This is our *Arkansas Weekly* article. We've paid for it, so let's put it to use!]

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

- Our fall meeting with Wayne Goff has been scheduled for **September 22-27**.
- Independence County Fair booth, July 16-20. A sign-up sheet is posted.
- *Summer Bible Series* July 22-26 (evenings)
- No one has volunteered to post Scripture on our signboard for July. (If you cannot help at the fair, here is another way to do your part.)

Rejoice and do your part to encourage these, *not lagging in diligence* (Rom. 12:11):

Travis Duvall was baptized last Thursday. (Matt. 7:12)

Carole Runsick desires to work among this congregation. We welcome her. Her address is 130 Harkey Rd (Batesville). Her other contact information will be posted on the bulletin board.

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TRUTH AND EMOTION

Bryan Gibson

More and more people seem to think that emotions trump truth. Let's explore the relationship a little closer, from a Scriptural standpoint, and then issue a couple warnings.

The truth, provided we have a good understanding of it, will produce a wide array of genuine emotions-fear, sorrow, compassion, joy, gratitude, etc. Jesus certainly experienced a range of emotions (Mark 3:5; 11:15-17; Luke 7:13; 10:21; 19:41; Hebrews 5:7), and so did Paul (Acts 20:19, 31; Romans 9:2; 2 Corinthians 2:4; 7:7, 13; 11:29; Philippians 3:18). No need to ever be ashamed of the emotions which spring from an understanding of truth.

The truth will also regulate our emotions, in several ways. 1) Emotions can be pretty fickle-we feel one way one moment and entirely different the next (e.g. Acts 14:8-19; Galatians 4:14-16). Truth is the great moderator-it can prevent these wild swings of emotion. 2) Emotions can also be misdirected-we feel one way when we should feel another. At Mt. Sinai, the Israelites "rejoiced in the works of their own hands" (Acts 7:41)-in short, they rejoiced in iniquity (see 1 Corinthians 13:6). We've got too many people asking, "How can this be so wrong when it feels so good?" Yet, to his worldly minded readers, James wrote, "Let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to gloom" (James 4:9). The truth, properly understood, will direct our emotions in keeping with the truth (see 3 John 1:4). 3) Emotions can also easily get out of control, which is often the case with anger ("outbursts of wrath-Galatians 5:20). There's no better anger management course in the world than the one found in the truth of God's word. 4) Not that there won't be occasional outpourings of emotion, but the truth also produces more settled emotions-the kind that produce steadfast, immovable Christians (1 Corinthians 15:58)-a joy that remains with us, even in times of sorrow (John 15:11; 2 Corinthians 6:10); a gratitude that enables us

to "give thanks always" (Ephesians 5:20); a fear that will consistently steer us away from "evil" and the "snares of death" (Proverbs 8:13; 14:26-27); etc.

Finally, the truth will root out certain emotions, ones that have no place in the life of a Christian. Self-pity comes way too easily for way too many people, but the truth simply won't allow it, not with its emphasis on self-denial (Matthew 16:24; Luke 14:26; Philippians 2:3-8).

Now, for a couple much needed warnings. First, resist any and all efforts to change God's plan-for any reason, including the desire to generate more emotion. More than anything else, we want people to have conviction, which will in turn produce the genuine emotions we spoke of earlier.

Secondly, don't judge others to be unemotional or lacking in spirituality, simply because they show very few outward displays of emotion. There's a far better way to judge the depth of one's faith and love, and their spirituality in general, and that's by consistent service to the Lord.

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE HOME

Heath Rogers

God created man. He saw that it was not good for man to be alone and searched for a suitable companion. When none was found, he fashioned woman from the flesh of the man and the two were joined together (Gen. 2:18-24). God ordained marriage. In doing so, He gave both the husband and the wife the roles that for which they were best suited.

The Husband/Father. God has given man the role of provider. What are some things that married men are required to provide? First, men are to provide material necessities. "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (1 Tim. 5:8). Men who will not work are not fulfilling their role, and thus should not be allowed to eat (2 Thess. 3:10). Second, men are to provide leadership. The husband is the head of the home. "For the husband is head of the wife..." (Eph. 5:23). This role is not about power and control, but about responsibility. Third, the husband is to provide love. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph. 5:25). This is to be a sacrificial love, putting the wife before self. Finally, fathers are to provide training and admonition for their children. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

The Wife/Mother. First, the wife is to be in subjection to her husband. "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord" (Eph. 5:22). This makes sense, seeing that God has given the role of leadership to the husband. Subjection is a hard word for many people to accept, yet all of us practice subjection in various aspects of our lives. The simplest meaning of "submit" is to yield, to give the right of way to another. When we drive our cars into an intersection bearing a "yield" sign, we understand that we are to allow the other vehicles to have the right of way. This does not mean that the people in the other car are more important than we are, but that this is the role we are to play in order for traffic to move smoothly and safely. The same thing is true in the home. The wife is not inferior. She just has a different role.

Second, the wife is to take care of the home. "That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed" (Titus 2:4-5). This does not mean that she is a slave. Neither does it mean that she is forbidden by God to work outside the home, or that she should not expect her husband and children to help around the house. However, it does mean that she is responsible for the functioning of her home.

The Children. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth'" (Eph. 6:1-3). Children are not out of the scope of God's authority. God expects them to obey and honor their parents. If they can learn to do so, they have cultivated a trait (respecting authority) that will serve them well throughout life.

Children honor their parents by the way they talk and act. "A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him" (Prov. 17:25). One's behavior is a reflection of the home in which he was raised. Children also honor their parents by listening to them and respecting their wishes. Grown children continue to honor their parents by caring for them in their old age (1 Tim. 5:4, 16).

The teaching of the Bible concerning marriage and the home may continue to be ridiculed and rejected in favor of modern trends, but I ask one question: How well are these non-Biblical ideas working for us? Many homes today are broken and dysfunctional. God created the home. He knows how it works best.