

EMOTIONS' PLACE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

Lesson 2: Realms In Which Emotion Belongs

Introduction

Having studied the fact that emotion belongs in the life of a Christian, we now turn our attention in this lesson to certain realms in which emotion belongs.

Body

I. Emotion Belongs In Conversion

A. On the day of Pentecost, emotion was present. Acts 2

1. Peter preaches with emotion - v. 14-36 - The sermon is composed of cold hard facts, reasoning from the OT prophecies; there's no emotionalism in the sermon.

a) Yet, all through the sermon Peter seeks to drive his message to the hearts of his hearers. vs. 22,23,33,36

2. The preaching of the early disciples was emotional (Acts 20:31). When we read the sermons of Peter (Acts 3), Stephen (Acts 7), Paul (Acts 16), etc., we find excitement and an appeal to emotion.

B. The 3,000 on Pentecost respond with emotion.

1. Notice: "they were pricked in their hearts" and cried, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (vs. 37)

2. Peter replies (vs.38) and they "gladly" receive the word (vs.41).

3. Further description of their emotion is seen in vs.43,46,47.

C. Other examples of emotion in conversion.

1. In the case of Saul of Tarsus - Acts 9:1-19

2. The Ethiopian eunuch - Acts 8:39 – he "went on his way rejoicing".

3. The Philippian jailer - Acts 16:29-34

4. If a person is genuinely converted, there's going to be emotion present. 2 Corinthians 7:10

II. Emotion Belongs In Our Worship

A. OT example of emotional response in worship to God - Nehemiah 8:1-9.

1. Notice the preacher's work:

a) He "opened the book"... vs. 5

b) He "read distinctly from the book"... vs. 8

c) He "gave the sense and helped them to understand the reading." vs. 8

2. Notice the people's reaction:

a) They were attentive... vs. 3

b) And they cried "Amen, Amen"... vs.7

c) They "wept"... vs. 9

B. We are not encouraging turning our worship into an emotional frenzy and emotionalism, BUT:

1. If somebody is moved by the story of the cross to tears, let his tears flow and let him not be ashamed of it.

2. If one is moved by a particular point that the preacher makes; if he wants to say Amen, let him say Amen. (Also saying "Amen" to the public prayer - I Cor.14:16).

3. Our worship is to be "in spirit" as well as "in truth", and that means heartfelt emotion! John 4:24

C. Revelation 4 and 5 – the worship described in heaven; a picture of emotional worship. (4:8-11; 5:8-14)

1. Wouldn't you love to hear them sing? Here is the wonderful praise unto the Lord in heaven.

D. We see emotion in worship in the very avenues of worship.

1. How can one partake of the Lord's Supper in memory of the suffering and death of our Lord without being filled with emotion?

2. How can one sing, "making melody in his heart unto the Lord", without heartfelt emotion?

3. How can we pray realizing the greatness of God and our own littleness; how little we deserve, without a feeling of awe and deep emotion?

4. Even as we give, we are to do so with emotion, for God loves a "cheerful giver" - II Cor.9:7.

III. Emotion Belongs In Dealing With Sin

- A.** When someone in the congregation falls into sin, and we correct them, it's to be done with emotion.
 - 1. Gal.6:1 – go “in meekness” and in love and concern.
 - 2. Jude 22,23 – notice the emotions: “compassion”, “fear” and “hatred”.
 - 3. There is no place in the church for cold, formal, unemotional letters of warning or withdrawal, sent with a "good riddance" attitude. All our efforts in restoring the wayward must be accompanied by a heart full of love and concern.
 - 4. If we can develop the kind of love among us we ought to, then we will have a real concern and heart felt emotion for one another we develop a real closeness and a sense of family. 1 Peter 1:22
- B.** The sinner's response is to be an emotional response - as they repent of their sins - II Cor.7:10 (See also Lk.22:61-62 and II Cor.2:6-7).
 - 1. We must never let a confession of sins be a substitute for repentance.
 - 2. Repentance is a change of heart brought on by godly sorrow, and that means genuine emotion!

IV. Solutions - We need emotion in these realms, but how are we going to bring that about?

- A.** Emotion in preaching is not to be gained through artificial means (emotional tales for emotion's sake or artificial tears), but through genuine excitement over the gospel message coupled with an overwhelming concern for the souls of others.
- B.** How are we going to get more emotion in our worship? We simply need more genuine appreciation for all the Lord has done for us and come to have deeper conviction. Note again the definition of religious emotion – “the result of anything you deeply believe, love and or fear.” Let’s apply this in our worship.
- C.** What about in dealing with sin? We simply need more hatred for sin.
 - 1. 'We may be separated from sin; we wouldn't do this or that because we've been taught that's wrong; but really we don't abhor/hate sin as we ought. Romans 12:9; Heb. 1:9
 - 2. Once we develop a real hatred for sin we will do what is necessary in our love for the sinner and our hatred for sin. 2 Cor. 2:6-11

Conclusion

Emotion belongs in these and other realms. Let’s make sure our service to God and to others is not out of mechanical duty but from a heart of genuine sincere emotion.