

EMOTIONS' PLACE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

Lesson 3: Emotions That Belong

Introduction – Lesson Text: Romans 12:9-15

In a study of emotions that belong in the life of a Christian, we have to be selective, for there are numerous emotional responses that can be a part of our lives.

I. LOVE – Romans 12:9

A. The greatest emotion in the life of the Christian - Matt.22:35-40; I Cor.13:1-3,13. If what we do is not accompanied and motivated by love, it's in vain.

1. It is ashamed to see the lack of love that exists among brethren, where brethren are alienated and not speaking to one another.
2. Division sometimes is necessary in doctrinal issues and matters of truth. But so many problems are over personality clashes, power struggles, and petty differences.

B. If there is some brother or sister you feel any ill will or malice towards, you need to change your attitude!

1. We must communicate to others that we are a people of love. John 13:34-35
2. Love is the “tie that binds”, the bond of perfection – Col. 3:12-14; 2:2
3. If you don't love your brother, then you can't love God! I John 4:20-21
4. If God can love me after all I have done against Him, then I can love my brother who has done nothing against me in comparison I John 4:10-11

C. Let it be genuine - Love is to be without hypocrisy – vs. 9.

1. Don't let love be that which shows on outside, but stab them in the back as soon as they turn away; or talk nice to their face, but get on telephone and spread rumors.
2. What we show on outside, must be felt deeply on inside; with real love. I Peter 1:22

II. HATE – Romans 12:9

A. Hate has a place in the life of a Christian. Ps.97:10, Heb.1:9

B. "Goodness" (one of fruit of spirit-Gal.5:22) implies hate. The word "includes also the sterner qualities by which doing good to others is not necessarily by gentle means." (Trench) Two incidents given:

1. Matthew 21:12,13 - Jesus cleansing the temple; was an act of goodness on the part of our Lord. He hated what they were doing.
2. Matthew 23:23-32 – His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. He was fed up with their hypocrisy; and it showed.
3. Paul's spirit was stirred when he beheld the sin and idolatry of the city. Acts 17:16

C. When you first look at iniquity you tend to be repulsed by it, but as you are exposed to it more and more, then we become accustomed to it and the less hate there is.

1. Lot never seemed to become accustomed to what he found in Sodom. I Peter 2:6-8.
2. We must lift ourselves above the common run of the people of the world and develop a real genuine hatred for sin.
3. Not just a mere separation from sin, but a genuine hatred for sin!

D. This too, must be without hypocrisy.

1. On the outside one may try to appear to hate sin, but on the inside they love it!
2. We must be the kind who can be stirred up, possessing goodness that can overflow in an emotional denunciation of sin.

III. FERVENCY – Romans 12:11

A. W.E. Vines defines the word: "To be hot, to boil, is metaphorically used of fervency of spirit, Acts 18:25; Rom. 12:11."

1. The word suggests excitement, enthusiasm, zeal, being "on fire for the Lord."

B. This was sorely lacking in the church at Laodicea - Rev. 3:14-22

1. This church would probably be a church looked up to in our day and time.

2. "Do you know what their contributions are, and the kind of people that make up that church?" "They're wealthy, secure, and among the socially elite!"

3. Also they weren't fanatics. We might admire them as a church that has found just exactly that happy medium. They were "neither cold nor hot", were "lukewarm."

4. But the Lord doesn't accept that attitude. He wants us to be "on fire" for Him!

IV. JOY – Romans 12:12

A. Christians are to be rejoicing people - Phil. 3:1; 4:4, I Thess.5:16, Gal.5:22, Ps.100

B. The early Christians rejoiced in spite of persecutions and opposition - Matt.5:10-12, James 1:2, Acts 16:25.

C. We have so much to rejoice in.

1. Material possessions in abundance. Jams 1:17

2. Forgiveness of sins. Are you happy to be a Christian? - Eph.1:7.

3. Membership in a great spiritual family. Doesn't that mean something to you?
Mark 10:29-30

4. Constant source of help in time of need. I Peter 5:7

5. Hope of eternal life. I Peter 1:4

D. Reasons why some find no joy or happiness in serving the Lord:

1. Conduct of their brethren.

2. Their own half-hearted service.

3. They have taken their eyes off heaven, and focused them on the troubles of this world.

E. This joy to be genuine, not artificial. Joy must be a part of the life of the Christian.

V. SORROW – Romans 12:15

A. There is a place for tears in the Christian's life:

1. Over the sins of others - II Cor. 2:4 - How many times have you ever wept over the sins of someone else?

2. Over our own sins - Peter "wept bitterly". Have you ever wept over your sins? To be ashamed, and grieved, (Matt.5:4), and moved with a "godly sorrow" - 2 Cor. 7:10.

3. In our warnings to others - apostle Paul - Acts 20:31

4. In sympathy for others - John.11:35

5. In our own grief and hardship– Hebrews 5:7

6. In the separation from others and their departing. Acts 20:36-38.

B. We must be the kind of people who can "weep with them that weep and rejoice with those who do rejoice."

1. We must have a genuine feeling for one another; whatever they're suffering or rejoicing in, we feel it with them. Col.2:2 - "hearts knit together in love."

2. We must never become so hardened that we cannot weep, for no one can be like our Lord and His apostles who cannot weep.

Conclusion

We have seen in these lessons that emotion belongs; it belongs in many different realms, and we're to be the kind of people who can love, hate, rejoice, weep, and be filled with genuine emotion. We must lift ourselves above any petty differences, personality conflicts, selfish ambitions, jealousies, self-centeredness; and come to love as the Lord would have us to love. To be the kind of people who can feel with other people, and can respond with an emotional response.