

The Role Of Emotion

Solomon wrote, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov 4:23). This “heart” is our intelligence, determination, emotions, and our sense of right and wrong (Matt 13:15, 22; Heb 4:12; Matt 22:37; Acts 23:1).

The fear of God, the love for God and our fellow man, and the joy of salvation are useful emotions (Heb 12:28; Matt 22:37-39; Acts 8:39). Instead of being joyful, the elder brother felt the emotion of anger at his brother’s repentance (Luke 15). So our emotions can keep us from doing right. Since we are easily swayed by our emotions, we need something very powerful to control them. God’s revealed word is the only power strong enough to help us properly channel our emotions (examples: 2 Tim 1:7; 1 Jn 2:15; Jas 4:9).

Today, much religion portrayed as “Christian” is mere emotionalism. In New Testament times, in the days of miraculous spiritual gifts, emotional control was to be practiced (1 Cor 14:26-40). The religion of Christ is an orderly religion where one is continually learning and carrying out what he has learned (Jn 6:44, 45, Eph 4:20). Jesus said, “come to Me...and learn from Me” (Matt 11:28-30).

The right combination of emotion, intelligence and determination is seen in Paul’s statement to the saints in Rome. Regarding their baptism into the death of Christ Paul wrote, “God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness” (Rom 6:17-18).

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.