

Feelings Are the Issues of Life

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Ephesians 4:17-19 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

- I. Feeling is one of our five physical senses.
 - A. The sense of touch is feeling something.
 - B. Being one of our physical senses feeling is a means of gathering information in order to make decisions, avoid dangers, approve or disapprove of something.
 - 1. The sense of touch is a way of discerning things.
 - 2. Hot/Cold; Sharp/Dull; Soft/Hard; etc.
 - C. Imagine life without the sense of touch; if we could not feel things with our hands, fingers, and all the rest of our body.
 - D. The verse we just read is not referring to feelings of the flesh, but to feelings of the soul, or the heart.
 - E. We feel with the heart like we do with our hands and our skin.
 - 1. There must be an object of our feelings.
 - 2. That object is ourselves, or another person, or even an animal.
 - 3. We also develop feelings for things that are inanimate and have no real value in the sight of God.
 - F. These feelings of the heart are the issues of life.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

- II. There are some people who appear to have no feelings.
 - A. Modern terminology describes these people as sociopaths, or psychopaths.
 - B. The identifying characteristic is their lack of feeling for others, and their lack of regard for the feelings of others.
 - C. They feel no empathy or sympathy for others.
 - D. The pain and suffering, or grief and injustice that others are subjected to is of no concern to them, and they feel no pain or sense anything unpleasant about it.
 - E. Their only concern is themselves.
 - F. These kinds of people are more and more numerous now than they used to be, there is a reason for it.

- III. People who have no feelings have a very serious spiritual problem.
 - A. Of course, there are people who do not show their feelings openly very often.
 - B. Women are naturally more inclined to show their feelings than men are.
 - C. Men are naturally more inclined to refrain from showing their feelings simply to keep from appearing too feminine.
 - D. But there is a great difference between not wearing your feelings on your sleeve and not having any feelings at all.
 - E. God created us to have feelings and they are a major issue of life, and a major element of our soul.

- F. What would life be like if all people were without feelings?
 - G. They are the fat and the sweetness, as well as the bitter herbs, of life.
 - H. They are the only thing that shows that we care about anything or anyone but ourselves.
 - I. The healthy soul has a great need for them – both to and from themselves.
 - J. All the great things concerning God are accompanied by feelings; truth, love, praise, mercy, grace.
 - K. Those without feelings do not understand or possess any of these things.
- IV. The more of our life that God controls, the greater our sense of feelings.
- A. When we glorify God as God in our lives, and our minds live and operate in that reality, there is feeling in everything.
 - 1. We feel pleasure in beauty. (sunsets, mountains, flowers, color.)
 - 2. We feel pleasure in things we hear. (music, voices of loved ones, birds singing, whip-o-wills, frogs, and so much more)
 - 3. We feel pleasure in our sense of touch; it is the most used sense when a child is developing; he must touch and feel everything he sees.
 - 4. We feel pleasure in tasting things and smelling things.
 - B. And of course, there is the negative in all of those senses, also; we feel displeasure, also, in every sense.
 - C. But as God diminishes in our life, so do our pleasurable feelings.
 - D. It begins when we start losing our feelings toward evil and unclean things, being convinced by the devil that we are getting wiser than those who told us those things were wrong. (Does that voice sound familiar? Eve? The Serpent?)
 - 1. We cease to feel that displeasure, that unpleasantness, of that which is unclean and evil thinking that is all the feeling we will give up, but the devil has a surprise for us.

Romans 1:21-24 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

- E. As the light fades, the darkness increases, and we find pleasure and contentment hard to find and frustration, anger, contempt, and hatred our constant companion.
- F. God made a woman to be a nurturer and therefore endowed by nature with tender feelings and desires toward others, especially her children, and her husband.
- G. The liberated or empowered woman, as they want to call her, is void of feelings, except for hatred, rebellion, contempt, and much frustration.
 - 1. She has lost all love, compassion, empathy, sympathy, and tenderness toward everyone, but herself.
 - 2. This is Satan's trophy of what he can do to God's perfect Creation.
- H. A man with no feelings is a man who does not know God, and therefore is like a brute beast, and he will be the grief of a good woman's life if she marries such a man.
- I. All these disorders that are so rampant now that were unheard of a few decades ago are all associated with this matter of feelings.
 - 1. And they all have in common this lack of feelings, and the lack of concern for the feelings of others.
- J. And they all have in common a departing from God and his truth and light.

- K. I truly believe that most of these issues are related to the rampant demonic influence in our world.
 - L. I believe most could be resolved by true godliness, true holiness, truly seeking to live in a way pleasing to God, which all require a departing and separation from this world and its wisdom and philosophies.
 - M. But there will be very few who will do that, and will instead trust only in the very ones who created the problem in the first place, who will only continue to feed and strengthen the devils that are causing the problem.
- V. If you have feelings, you should show them, whether you are a man or a woman, young or old, introvert or extrovert.
- A. There are two extremes here: one is a person who has no control over their feelings, and the other is one who has too much control over them.
 - B. Both are like poison to any relationship, whether it is husband/wife, parents/children; church family; or friends.
 - C. What matters more to you about someone than how they feel about you?
 - D. What causes emptiness and discouragement in a marriage more than the lack of showing affection for one another.
 - E. What confirms love more, the words you say, or the feelings you show?
 - F. Of course, feelings can be feigned, (faked) and that requires another message, because that is another branch of the tree that Satan works very effectively, also.
 - G. If you are young, you better consider this matter in choosing a mate.
 - 1. If they show no emotion, and seem insensitive toward others, you will be in for a difficult and empty life if you marry them.
 - H. A person that never shows any sign of feelings is someone to keep your eye on.
 - 1. That is a road that leads to a bad end somewhere.
 - I. Feelings are the issues of life.

Issue means a flowing out, a giving out, a sending out; also means children, or child.

- J. They are what come out of us for others to see, and are what determine, more than anything else, what they think and feel toward us.
- K. They make friends and they make foes out of other people.
- L. They give our life a fragrance or a stink to others.
- M. They make us desirable or undesirable.
- N. Our feelings are what others are trying to sense and discern when they are around us.
- O. Have a heart that is right with God and your feelings will be easy to show toward others.

Making fun of someone's feelings.

Playing with someone's feelings.

Manipulating someone's feelings.

Taking advantage of someone's feelings.

Hurt feelings can change the course of a life.

Finding out that some does not care about you can be devastating.