

JOHN 18:15 ff.
ROME GEORGIA
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We live in an "age of emotions". "**How do you feel**" is less an inquiry into our physical condition than it is a probe of our emotions. A few years ago, our culture bred a generation of young people whose "battle cry" of life was "**If It FEELS GOOD, Do It.**"

The problem with this type of attitude is that under the right circumstances, almost anything could "feel good" for a moment. Old **Jerry Clower story** about the man, the monkey and the raccoon up in a tree fighting. Request that someone "**shoot up here amongst us because somebody has got to have some relief!**" ("The Coon Huntin' Monkey")

But in our quest for "FEELINGS" ("**O WOAH, WOAH FEELINGS**") we have become terribly confused!

We have learned to fine tune the emotions of others through the mass media.

Women who cry over the troubles of those on "The Secret Storm" or "As the World Turns"

- men who cry over the loss of a football game,

children who weep over the death of "Bambi" but have no tears for the suffering of mankind.

All of us have had our feelings manipulated by the media. But as with any of our other senses, **over use leads to abuse**. We have grown so accustomed to an incessant "**emotional media massage**" that we have become **desensitized to true emotions**. It becomes more and more difficult to sort out our true feelings on a given subject. I have an **editorial cartoon** depicting a man labeled as a "**fanatic**". He is wearing a button on his lapel that says, "SAVE THE WHALES" but he is carrying a banner which is clearly "PRO ABORTION."

Emotions are a very tricky thing under the best of situations - but when they have been tampered with nonstop for a generation, they become so worn out and distorted that it is could be unwise to rely too heavily on them for guidance.

We have all been **fooled by our feelings**. (Men on first **train ride, banana** for the first time, tunnel. "**Don't eat that thing - it will make you go blind!**")

Dr. Brand, ("**Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**") who dedicated his life to treating lepers, became alarmed when he saw a spot on his own foot, thought he had leprosy. Quite a fright.

We can get quite caught up in the things that bring us emotional pleasure.

We go to the ball game and act like a complete idiot.

We cry at a wedding.

We become so involved with our own interests that all else fades to the background.

"In 1933 **Albert Einstein** visited **Dr. Geno Gutenberg**, the *senior seismologist* at the California Institute of Technology. Einstein was greatly interested in the **science of earthquakes** and asked many questions as they strolled around the campus. **Suddenly, an excited professor broke in on their conversation. They looked around to see people rushing from nearby buildings and the earth quaking under their feet.**

Gutenberg later confessed **that they had become SO INVOLVED ABOUT THE SCIENCE OF EARTH MOVEMENTS THAT THEY FAILED TO NOTICE THE FAMOUS LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE TAKING PLACE AROUND THEM!** Tan #1259

Sometimes, our interests and emotions can so engulf us that we fail to distinguish between our thought life and reality! Some people become so engrossed with theory that they can't see reality!

PETER was often guilty of allowing his emotions to control his thoughts and his actions. So much so that when Jesus announced his intentions to go to Jerusalem and die, that **Peter began to rebuke Him saying,**

"Be it far from thee Lord; this shall not be unto thee. "

"But, Jesus turned and said unto him, **"get thee behind me, Satan. Thou art an offense unto me; for THOU SAVOREST NOT THE THINGS THAT ARE OF GOD, BUT THOSE THINGS THAT ARE OF MEN."** *Matt. 16:21-23.*

Herein lays the root of the problem of our emotions. Too often we are so concerned with men that we fail to take into account the things of God! This is why God warns us in

Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Let's look quickly at **Peter's emotions** in the last few hours.

FIRST - **Peter** had some rather

I. CONFUSING EMOTIONS *John 13:6-9*

Shortly after Jesus' rebuke in *Matthew 16:23* - we find Peter with the others in the Upper Room. Here Jesus girds Himself as a servant and begins to wash the disciples' feet

John 13:6-8 Then He came to **Simon Peter**. And *Peter* said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

7 Jesus answered and said to him, **"What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."**

8 Peter said to Him, **"You shall never wash my feet!"** Jesus answered him, **"If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."**

Peter, confronted with the WORK OF GOD, failed to understand what was happening. He was confused. Everything within him rebelled at the idea of Jesus Christ washing his feet. Yet, a moment later, **at the WORD OF GOD, v. 8b his emotions were completely reversed**, and rightfully so, to the point that now, he wants more than that which is necessary.

John 13:9 Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head!"

DO YOUR EMOTIONS EVER FLIP FLOP THIS WAY? DO YOU RUN "HOT" AND "COLD" AS EASILY AS A FAUCET.

THE THING THAT KEPT PETER IN LINE WAS THE "WORD OF THE LORD."

In an airplane, at night, or in the clouds, you cannot depend on your feelings. You must depend on the control instruments. A few years ago (*December 1989* *) they found a squadron of military aircraft that disappeared in the mid-40's.

One account I read said that the **commander of this squadron was so sure that both of the onboard compasses were wrong, and so sure of his own FEELINGS** that they ignored the instruments and **trusted in his own EMOTIONS**. The end thereof, however, **was the way of death!**

"The way of a **fool** is right in his own eyes." **Prov. 12:15**

"there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the way of death" **Prov. 14:12 and 16:25**

"Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts." **NKJV Prov. 21:2**

HOW DOES YOUR HEART BALANCE IN GOD'S SCALE?

THEN WE FIND PETER HAVING:

II. CONSUMING EMOTIONS **John 13:36-37**

Cf. **Mark 14:26-31** "If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any way!"

Peter was zealous if nothing else! But his zeal was not always according to knowledge! He could boldly assert to follow Christ even to death. But his zeal was not always matched by the **courage of conviction** that comes when we have assurance from the **WORD of GOD that our actions match His plan.**

AND NOW, IN **JOHN 18**: WE FIND PETER GRIPPED WITH YET ANOTHER SET OF EMOTIONS.

III. CONDEMNING EMOTIONS **John 18:15 ff.** (READ THE ACCOUNT)

John 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so *did* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in.

17 Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "**I am not.**"

18 Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. **And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.**

Jesus had asked Peter to pray, lest he fall into temptation, but Peter FELT like sleeping, so he slept.

Matt. 26:40-41 When He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"
"watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak!."

Then, when the band of men was upon them, Christ gave opportunity for the disciples to go their way - but Peter again failed to heed the WORD OF THE LORD.

AND SO PETER, FAILING TO HEED THE WORD OF THE LORD, ALLOWED HIMSELF TO FALL INTO THE SNARE OF THE DEVIL.

TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS THAT THE PSALMIST OUTLINES FOR US IN

PSALM 1:1 Blessed *is* the man Who **walks** not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor **stands** in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

PETER **WALKED** IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY - WHEN HE FOLLOWED JESUS TO THE COURTYARD.

HE **STOOD** WITH THE ENEMY BY THE FIRE - JOHN 18:16,18.

THEN HE **SAT** WITH THE ENEMY LUKE 22:55

THEN HE DENIED THE LORD THREE TIMES. Finally,

Mat 26:74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.

Matthew 26:74 To curse (*καταθεματιζειν*)

A new development of profanity. Hitherto he had merely *sworn*. Now he adds *imprecation*; invoking curses on himself if the case be not as he says.

LUKE 22:61 TELLS US THAT JESUS TURNED AND LOOKED AT HIM. ("JESUS WAS THERE ALL THE TIME") (*yesterday, Isaiah 41: Mt Springs. Face to Face with God*)

It is a terrible feeling when we realize that here is nothing to hold onto! (Bathtub in the Occidental Hotel, Rebekah's wedding) Circular shower curtain in old cast iron tub. Annette was not there, so I committed myself unto the Lord and entered the "circle of death" fully ready to meet my maker.

"A man who was in the great **earthquake** at Charleston SC said that he experienced some **strange feelings** when he found that **there was nothing to stand on or hold on to!** He looked at the most solid structures, and they were toppling and falling. He rushed out into an open space, and the firm ground was heaving. He looked to the great forest trees, and they were swaying like reeds in the storm. The hills were reeling. The sea was rocking in a mighty raging tumult. **It was only when he looked up and saw the firmament and stars that his eyes rested on something that was steadfast.**" Tan #1257.

FOR ALL THE **CONFUSING, CONSUMING, CONDEMNING EMOTIONS** IN PETER'S HEART, ONE LOOK AT THE **STEADFAST** SAVIOR WAS ALL IT TOOK TO BRING HIM BACK TO TRUE REALITY. THIS ONE WHO HAD DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, THE SEA ITSELF AND THE COCK THAT CROWED RIGHT ON QUE - *THIS ONE* WAS WORTH HIS ALL.

***Flight 19 Found After 44 Years? Sunken Plane Looks Like Those In Lost Squadron**

December 9, 1989 |By Beth Duff Sanders, Fort Lauderdale [News and Sun-Sentinel](#)

FORT LAUDERDALE — Underwater explorers from Tampa say they have found what appears to be a World War II torpedo bomber similar to those in a squadron of TBM Avengers that mysteriously disappeared in the **Bermuda Triangle 44 years ago.**

But Project 19, the company that hired the explorers, has pulled out of today's Winterfest Boat Parade. Winterfest officials said Project 19 officials had entered the parade to celebrate the discovery of one of the missing Avengers. Parade officials also said they were shown an underwater video of the find.

From **The Body**. Chuck Colson

"I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity." C.. S. Lewis. from **The Body**. Page 39. Chuck Colson, Chapter 3. "Gimme that Hot Tub Religion."

30+ years ago we attended a denominational church in Sandy Springs. The young couples class seemed to be a good fit for us and our young family. When Asked if we would join the church, I said I wanted to talk to the pastor about the governing Doctrines of the church before making that decision. They were dumbfounded. Even though they were a fairly well rounded group of yourn believers, evidently thy all made the decision to affiliate with this Body of Christ - church - based on the way they "felt" when they attended there.

Some of the most popular books sold in Christian book stores deal with **Self-esteem, Self-fulfillment, and Self-analysis** while books that deal with **self-sacrifice** and the Lordship of Jesus Christ gather dust.

"Even secular observers have noted how this demand for the "**feel better**" religion is affecting Church Life and practice. A 1990 Newsweek cover story heralded The Dramatic religious Resurgence among the nation's "Baby Boomers", reporting that more than 80% considered themselves religious and believe in life after death. But unlike earlier religious revivals the same this time is **support not salvation, help rather than holiness, a circle of spiritual equals rather than an authoritative church or Guide.**

A group affirmation of self is at the top of the agenda which is why some of the least demanding churches are now in the greatest demand." p. 42

As *George Barna* points out people are looking for a religious system that will meet their need for a religious perspective without requiring the sacrifices and commitment that people are looking for a religious system that will meet their need for a religious perspective without requiring the sacrifices and commitment that traditional Christianity demands. fn p. 43.

The denomination or the doctrine of the church is not as important as "**what's in it for me.**"

People do not want to deal with "Sin and Redemption" they want Jesus to be a friend who helps us find happiness and self-fulfillment" p. 45

The church is less of a "worshiping community" and more of "and escape to a comforting haven of escape from life's pressures", p. 45

We have infact gone from the "Old Time Religion" to the "Hot Tub Religion." -

Because we have created "god" in our own image in order to achieve "self-realization" we have failed to include 'God-realization" in our Church planning. God's plan for the Church is not "finding our true self" but rather "losing our true self" in the Lordship of Jesus. P. 45

The feel good, restore yourself, therapeutic gospel has all but destroyed any semblance of true Christianity,. The focus of many so-called mega churches is more about the New Age movement than the New Birth that Jesus offers.