

I. Introduction and review.

II. Love is sympathetic. v. 15

A. Many of us resist expressing our emotions.

1. God does not want us to be Stoics.
2. There is a right time and place for emotional expression. Eccl. 3:4
3. Some of us do whatever we can to avoid getting too emotional.

B. Why do some lack emotional empathy?

1. Personality type?
2. Sinful selfishness prevents us from weeping and rejoicing at the appropriate times. Isa. 39:5-8 2 Kings 8:11-12 Ga. 5:22
3. Jesus exemplifies what your emotional life should be like.

C. A theology of emotions.

1. God delights in Himself, His plan and His people. Isa. 42:1 62:5 Eph. 1:5
2. God grieves over evil and unbelief. Gen. 6:5-6 Eph. 4:30 Isa. 63:10 Ezek. 6:9
3. God is angry with wickedness. Ex. 22:22-24 Ps. 5:5-6 7:11
4. He has compassion on His people. Ps. 103:13-14 Isa. 49:15-16
5. He loves. Jer. 31:3 John 3:16
6. The gospel is about God sharing our sufferings and sorrows that we might enter into His joy. Rom. 5:12 Jo. 3:16 17:3ff Re. 21:4

D. Do you have Christlike emotions?

1. Jesus is fully man, not just physically, but also emotionally. John 1:14 Heb. 2:17
2. Jesus experienced the full range of human emotions.
 - a. He sympathizes with us. Heb. 2:14-15,17 4:15-16
 - b. Jesus has compassion for the lost. Mark 6:30
 - c. Jesus loves. John 11:36 13:34 15:13
 - d. Jesus rejoices. Mt. 11:19 25:21 John 2:1ff 15:11 Heb. 12:1-2 10:5-7 1:9
 - e. Jesus experiences righteous anger. John 2:14-17
3. Jesus was a *Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief*. Is. 53:3 Jo. 11:35,33 13:21 Luke 19:41-43 23:46 Mt. 23:37,46 26:37-39 Heb. 5:7 John 13:21 Isa. 53:4-6
4. Those who refuse to weep and rejoice are unchristlike (and subhuman).

E. Love involves empathy and emotion. Col. 3:12

1. When God saves us He begins the process of transforming us into Christlikeness.
2. Right thinking produces godly emotions.
3. We are part of the same body. 14:7 I Co. 12:26 II Co. 11:28
4. Emotions must be real.

F. Weep with those who weep. Mt. 5:4 Jer. 9:1 Mic. 6:8

1. The sorrows of those you love should deeply move you. Jo. 11:33 Ga. 6:2
2. Our own griefs help us to empathize with the sorrows of others. II Co. 1:3-4
3. Such involvement is very costly!
4. We should have compassion for the lost. 9:2-3 Jer. 9:1ff

G. Rejoice with those who rejoice. II Co. 2:3 Phil. 4:4 Gal. 5:22

1. Empathy isn't just about tears. There is also a time to rejoice! Ecc. 3:4 Ruth 3:7
2. Why is sharing in the joy of others sometimes harder than sharing their tears?

III. Love is humble. v. 16

- A. Be like-minded. v. 16a 15:5 Phil. 2:2-4 II Co. 13:11
1. Passionately pursue unity with other believers. Eph. 4:1-6
 2. Some professing Christians are quarrelsome. Pr. 17:14 20:3 26:20-21
 3. We are like-minded on the core issues of the gospel and must allow room for differences on non-essentials.
- B. Don't be high-minded. v. 16b I Co. 13:4
1. Pride destroys our unity. Js. 2:1ff Luke 14:12-14
 2. It is possible to put social pressure on people even if you didn't mean to do so.
 3. Treat other believers with due love and regard. Phil. 2:1-4
 4. Embrace those whom the world rejects. I Co. 1:26ff
- C. Don't be wise in your own eyes. 11:25 Pr. 3:5 I Co. 8:1-3 Js. 3:13-18
1. It is possible to be a doctrinally astute theological snob.
 2. True wisdom is humble. Js. 3:13-18
- D. Jesus was humble-minded. Phil. 2:5ff John 1:1,13 Mt. 11:29

IV. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions.

1. Why do some people resist expressing their emotions?
2. What is the source of sorrow in the world?
3. What is the most sympathetic act in all of history?
4. What emotions did Jesus express?
5. How should our emotional life be Christlike?
6. How can you weep with those who weep?
7. Why is it sometimes harder to rejoice with those who rejoice than it is to weep with those who weep?
8. What does it mean that we are to be of the same mind?
9. How can intellectual pride destroy the unity of the church?
10. How does Jesus exemplify humble mindedness?