

Session 1: A Theology of Emotions

The Emotions of Christ – Monday Night Meetings 2021

I. Our Approach in this Study

II. Understanding God's Emotions

A. *God's emotions*

1. In thinking about God's emotions, we need to be careful of two extremes. We must not think of God as _____ and distant. On the other hand, we must not recreate God in our own image and imagine him as reacting capriciously with human-like emotions. How do we think accurately of God's emotions?

- a) God is an impassioned being. He is full of _____.
- b) God's emotions are _____ than ours.
 - (1) *God's emotions are* _____.
 - (2) *God's emotions are utterly* _____.

B. *Jesus' emotions and his _____ nature*

1. Jesus' emotions accurately display to us what God is like. Far from Jesus' humanity _____ our vision of God, it makes _____ our vision of God.

C. *Keeping a proper _____ with other aspects of his being*

1. One more caution: By focusing on Jesus' emotions, we don't want to get the idea that Jesus was a man who was _____ by his emotions.

D. *In summary...*

- 1. God's emotional life is _____ from ours.
- 2. The emotions that Jesus experienced through his divine-human nature accurately _____ to us what God is like.
- 3. Emotions are not _____. Jesus was not dominated by his emotions.

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III. Understanding Human Emotions

A. Purpose of our Emotions

1. **Creation:** God created human beings in his own image with the capacity for emotions. Our capacity for emotions is a _____ from God.
2. **Purpose:** Our emotions are given to us by God to _____ and _____ our will and mind in doing what is right and pleasing to God. They are given that we might love God with our whole being and love our neighbor as ourselves.
 - a) **Robert Law:** “In the complex working of our nature, emotion has but one purpose, to _____ the will to action” (*The Emotions of Jesus*, p.53-54).

B. Fallenness of our Emotions

1. Because of our sin and rebellion against God, our emotions are _____. They malfunction, they are defective. They no longer accurately reflect God and his values. They now reflect the _____ bent of our hearts.

C. Progressive Restoration of our Emotions

1. In Christ, it is possible to recover more and more of God’s image as we yield ourselves to God. We call this _____.
2. Part of that transformation process is the _____ of our emotions to their proper _____ in our lives.