

## THE EFFECTS OF EMOTIONALISM

1. Text: Galatians 5:22-26
2. This lesson is on our emotions. Emotions are our feelings; they are neither good or bad. They just are: only right or wrong depending on direction and control. Emotions: anger, happy, fear, sad, jealous, stress, and so on.
3. Problem: Emotionalism or tendency to rely on or place too much value on emotion, to govern more by emotion than reason, when emotions become the central determining factor in critical issues such as conduct and values. So feelings often govern rather than facts and reason, often as a matter of policy or belief. Let's see three areas where clarity is needed:

### I. **Emotionalism And Spirituality**

1. Maybe most powerful mistake in modern religion.
2. Misunderstanding: If not highly emotional, not spiritual: E=S. More noise, excitement, "heart-felt experience" - the better Christians, better worship, living, walk with Lord.
3. Opposite: If not emotionalism, then something seriously wrong, missing, to be criticized: dead, lifeless.
4. Problem: S equals E stamps certain "personality types" as more spiritual. Wrong!
5. Truth: Spirituality is to be spiritual! See text: led by spirit, walk by spirit, to be in a daily obedient walk with God.
6. Watch out for misuse of words like heart and spirit. Heart is used in NT 157 times and great, great majority of times not meaning emotions.
7. See text for "fruit of the spirit." James 1:26-27 "Pure religion" Romans 10:2 Zeal without knowledge.

### II. **Emotionalism And Truth**

1. Thomas Sowell: "But this is the age of emotion, not analysis."
2. John Adams: "Facts are stubborn things, and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts or evidence."
3. Matthew 7:13-23: Narrow way, gate, few find it. Beware of false prophets. You know by fruits. Not Those who confess the Lord but those who do God's will go to heaven.
4. My mom and our Elders:
5. Acts 17:2-14: In Thessalonica "reasoned with them from Scripture (v.2); some envious and attacked. In Berea the noble searched the Scripture (v.11); enemies came and stirred up people, forced Paul to leave.
6. II Kings 5:11 "Naaman became furious."

### III. **Emotionalism and Motivation**

1. From same word as motive: "to cause to move," to incite action. Common error: unless touch emotions, people won't be motivated. So spiritually indifferent can sit back and wait for magical emotional moment.
2. False assumptions lead to false standards. Criticism of various things supposed to motivate: lessons, worship, singing, counseling.
3. Many times emotions do motivate. But only one of many ways; actually dangerous: M=E. Can be even detriment. David Buttrick: "The tradition is that feeling motivates. Actually feeling may drain motivation and be the enemy of change. Energy may spend itself in emotion and prompt no action at all."
4. "Workshop syndrome"
5. Rich young ruler felt but no change. Acts 2 where people felt bad. II Timothy 4:2 mission of preaching.
6. Father: "Tell him to plow the back forty today if he feels like it."

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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